

Recreational guide

come
out
and
play

sfwmd.gov



Welcome

The South Florida Water Management District invites you to 'come out and play' on public lands. Hike, fish, camp, hunt, study nature, ride horses or bicycles, or just relax – what's your pleasure?

We cooperate with other state agencies, the federal government, counties, municipalities, and the private sector to develop recreational access sites and facilities. Traditionally, the District encouraged recreational use of its canals and water storage areas. However, over the years we have taken great strides to expand public use opportunities. And it just keeps on getting better.

Recreational use of public lands is rooted in the 1951 Florida Resource Rivers Act, more commonly known as "Save Our Rivers." This enabled water management districts to begin major land acquisition programs to secure and protect vital water resource lands for the benefit of existing and future generations. Today, we are the steward for around 375,000 acres under the Save Our Rivers program.

Public use rules govern recreational use. This is necessary to protect the natural and cultural resources of the land and avoid conflict between users and user groups. This recreational guide gives you the location of designated management areas, authorized public uses, and the general rules and regulations.

Managing public lands is a big job, and the District relies on other agencies and the private sector to help manage selected lands. Cooperative agreements set forth the type and extent of management assistance to be provided. Where cooperating entities, such as the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission or the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, have their own rules for a tract of land, the District's regulations will supplement those.

For online information about the Land Stewardship Public Use Program go to: www.sfwmd.gov/org/clm/lcd/lcd.html

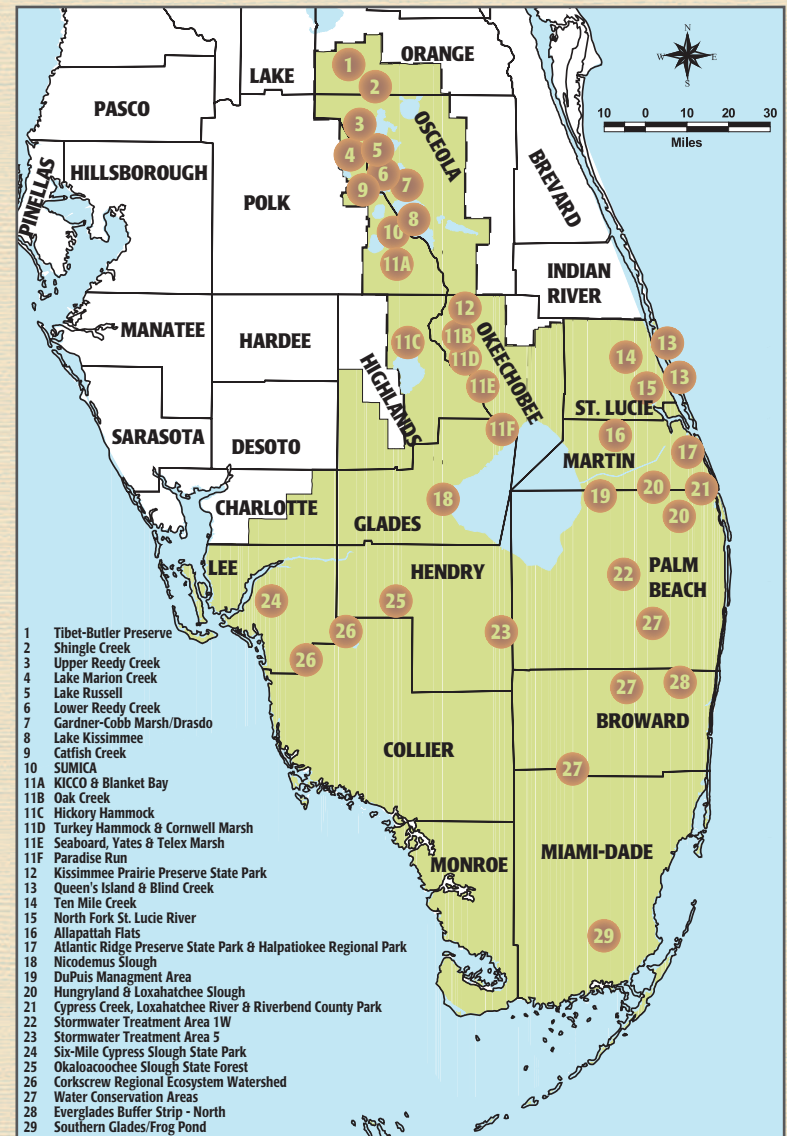


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General Locator Map S.F.W.M.D. Recreational Opportunities



RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Upper Lakes Management Region

Page #	Unit	County	Airboating	Bicycling
12	Shingle Creek	Orange		✓
14	Tibet-Butler Preserve (Vera Carter Environmental Center)	Orange		
	Lake Marion Creek Wildlife Management Area			
16	Huckleberry Island	Osceola & Polk		✓
16	Snell Creek	Polk		
16	Horse Creek	Polk		
16	Baltic Court	Polk		
16	Lake Marion	Polk		
	Upper Reedy Creek			
20	Intercession City	Osceola		
20	Reedy Creek	Osceola		
20	Lake Russell	Osceola		
	Lower Reedy Creek			
24	Rough Island North*	Osceola	✓	
24	Rough Island South*	Osceola	✓	
24	Johnson Island*	Osceola	✓	
	Lake Hatchineha			
26	Catfish Creek*	Polk	✓	
	Lake Kissimmee			
28	Drasdo*	Osceola	✓	
28	Gardner-Cobb Marsh*	Osceola	✓	
28	Lightsey	Polk	✓	✓
28	Sturm Island	Osceola	✓	
28	Rabbit Island	Osceola	✓	
28	Bird Island	Osceola	✓	
30	SUMICA	Polk		✓

Canoeing	Camping	Education Visitor Center	Equestrian	Fishing	Hiking	Hunting	Picnic Tables
✓				✓	✓		
		✓			✓		
	✓				✓	✓	✓
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Information, camping and equestrian permits:
Orlando Service Center FL WATS 1-800-250-4250
or (407) 858-6100

Hunting Information: Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation
Commission (FWC) (863) 684-3205

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Kissimmee Management Region

Page #	Unit	County	Airboating	Bicycling
34	KICCO Wildlife Management Area (Quota hunt)	Okeechobee		✓
34	Blanket Bay Slough	Osceola	✓	
38	Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park	Okeechobee		✓
42	Boney Marsh	Okeechobee & Highlands	✓	
42	Bluff Hammock	Okeechobee & Highlands	✓	
42	Hickory Hammock Wildlife Management Area (Quota hunt)	Highlands	✓	✓
46	No Name Slough	Okeechobee	✓	✓
46	Starvation Slough	Okeechobee	✓	✓
46	Oak Creek	Okeechobee	✓	
50	Turkey Hammock West	Highlands	✓	
50	Turkey Hammock East	Okeechobee		
50	Cornwell Marsh West	Highlands		
50	Cornwell Marsh East	Okeechobee		
50	Micco Landing	Okeechobee & Highlands	✓	✓
54	Seaboard Marsh North	Okeechobee & Highlands	✓	
54	Seaboard Marsh South	Okeechobee & Highlands	✓	
54	Yates Marsh	Okeechobee & Highlands		✓
54	Telex Marsh	Okeechobee & Highlands		
58	S-65E Impoundment*	Okeechobee	✓	
58	Paradise Run	Okeechobee		✓

Canoeing	Camping	Education Visitor Center	Equestrian	Fishing	Hiking	Hunting	Picnic Tables
✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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Information, camping and equestrian permits:
Okeechobee Service Center FL WATS 1-800-250-4200
or (863) 462-5260

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

East Coast Management Region

Page #	Unit	County	Airboating	Bicycling
62	DuPuis Management Area ¹	Martin & Palm Beach		✓
66	Halpatiokee Regional Park ²	Martin		✓
68	Hungryland	Martin & Palm Beach		
68	Loxahatchee Slough	Martin & Palm Beach		
72	Miller/Wild	St. Lucie		
74	North Fork St. Lucie River (Oxbow Eco-Center)	St. Lucie		
76	Riverbend Park	Palm Beach		✓
78	Blind Creek	St. Lucie		
78	Queen's Island	St. Lucie		
80	Spruce Bluff	St. Lucie		
82	Ten Mile Creek (Frisbee golf available)	Indian River		✓
84	Three Scrub Sites	St. Lucie		
86	Allapattah Flats	Martin		✓

Canoeing	Camping	Education Visitor Center	Equestrian	Fishing	Hiking	Hunting	Picnic Tables
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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	✓		✓		✓	✓	

General Information: SFWMD headquarters (561) 686-8800

¹ **Camping and equestrian permits: DuPuis (561) 924-5310**

² **Camping permit: Martin County (772) 288-5690**

Hunting Information: FWC (561) 625-5122

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Everglades Management Region

Page #	Unit	County	Airboating	Bicycling
90	Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (Water Conservation Area 1)	Palm Beach		✓
94	Everglades and Francis S. Taylor Wildlife Management Area (Water Conservation Areas 2 and 3)	Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade	✓	✓
98	Everglades Buffer Strip	Broward		
100	Southern Glades	Miami-Dade		
100	Southern Glades Wildlife and Environmental Area	Miami-Dade	✓	✓
100	Frog Pond	Miami-Dade		
104	Stormwater Treatment Areas 1W and 5	Palm Beach & Hendry		**

General Information: SFWMD headquarters (561) 686-8800

Waterfowl Hunting Information: (561) 732-3684

Canoeing	Camping	Education Visitor Center	Equestrian	Fishing	Hiking	Hunting	Picnic Tables
✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
✓				✓	✓	✓	
				✓	✓		
✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
						✓	
					**	✓	

Hunting Information: FWC (954) 746-1789

West Coast Management Region

106	Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed Wildlife and Environmental Area ¹	Lee & Collier		
108	Nicodemus Slough ²	Glades	✓	
110	Okaloachoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area and State Forest ³	Hendry & Collier		✓
112	Six Mile Cypress Slough	Lee		

✓	✓				✓	✓	
✓				✓	✓		
	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
		✓			✓		✓

General Information: CREW Management Center (239) 867-3230

¹ **Camping permits: CREW (239) 657-2253**

² **Airboating permits: Aim Engineering (239) 332-4569**

³ **Florida Division of Forestry (FDOF): (863) 612-0776**

Hunting Information: FWC (561) 625-5122

**** Limited access. For information on special birding trips, call (561) 686-8800 or visit www.sfwmd.gov**

For information on waterfowl hunting, call FWC at (954) 746-1789

Shingle Creek

Take a short stroll on a nature trail behind the Marriott, or hike four miles into the heart of the Shingle Creek Management Area. Either way, you'll get a good look at the initial headwaters of the Everglades ecosystem. The creek is the major water source for Lake Tohopekaliga, which is part of the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes and forms the headwater of the Everglades.

Adjacent to major tourist attractions and growth areas, it is the last remaining natural area of its size in southwest Orange and northwest Osceola counties. The District has restored portions of the swamp with funding provided as mitigation to offset wetland impacts associated with construction of the Orlando Beltway. Because of the land's significance to the Everglades, the creek is featured on the Everglades Trail. Go to www.evergladestrail.com.

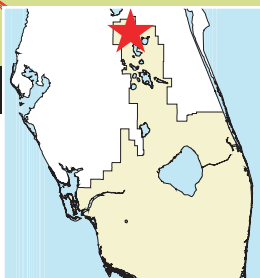
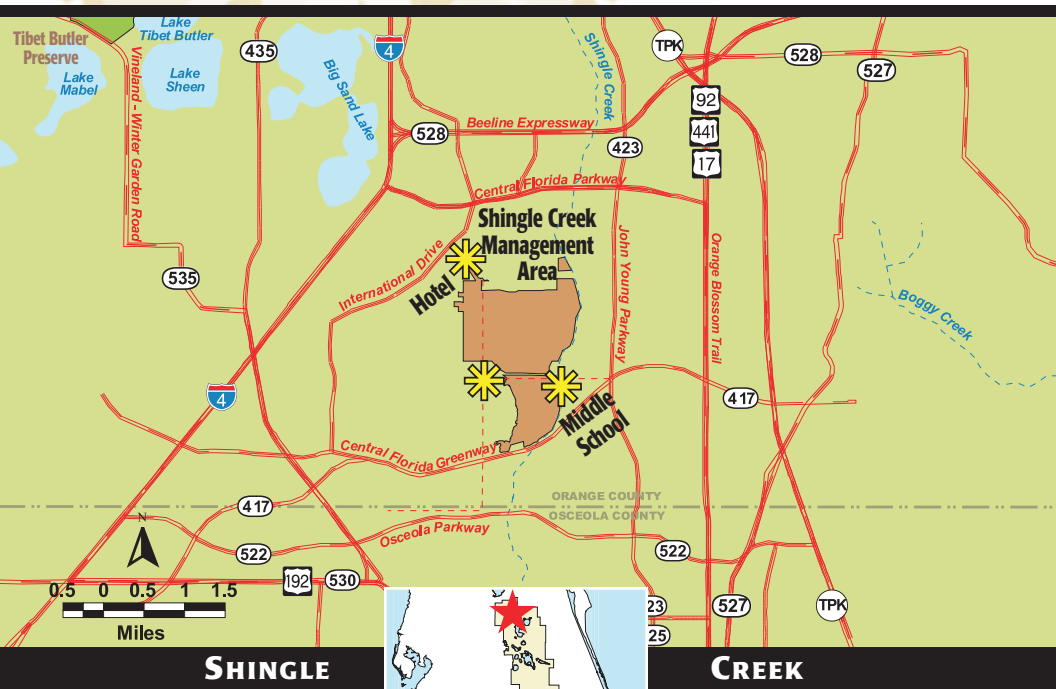
There are a number of ways you can enjoy the property. You can access a nature trail (small boardwalk and mulched segments) behind the Marriott or hike or bicycle four miles of dirt power line roads from Hunter's Vista subdivision. Another three miles of trail along the Shingle Creek canal, with side trails to the pine islands, are ideal for hiking. Finally you can hike into the property at Hunter's Creek Middle School where access is open during non-school hours. Or enjoy the creek in a canoe. Put in your canoe anywhere along the creek's west bank and slip away.

Bring your fishing pole. Cypress, gum trees, and wet prairies that ring pine islands are evidence the land stays mostly wet. Try your luck for pan fish in the channelized five-mile portion of the creek.

A variety of wildlife such as white-tailed deer, alligators, turkey and birds thrive in the Shingle Creek corridor.

How to Get There:

- The Marriott Trail entrance: about one-half mile south from Central Florida Parkway on International Drive.
- Hunter's Creek Middle School entrance: One-half mile down Town Loop Blvd. from John Young Parkway in Hunter's Creek.
- Power line entrance: Behind Hunter's Vista of the Vistas subdivision, approximately one mile west on Town Center Blvd. from John Young Parkway.



Orange County
1,650 Acres
Manager: SFWMD

Tibet Butler Preserve

The Tibet Butler Preserve is an oasis for wildlife and nature seekers amidst burgeoning Orlando. Over four miles of interpretive hiking trails and elevated boardwalks radiate from the Vera Carter Environmental Center and traverse an array of natural communities, including bay and cypress swamps, freshwater marshes, scrub and pine flatwoods. The preserve is home to bobcats, foxes, swallow-tailed kites, gopher tortoises, bald eagles, the rare indigo snake and a variety of songbirds, but you may not see them all. In the nature center, though, you'll get a closeup look at some of the area's wildlife in live exhibits. The center hosts a special environmental studies series for fifth graders.

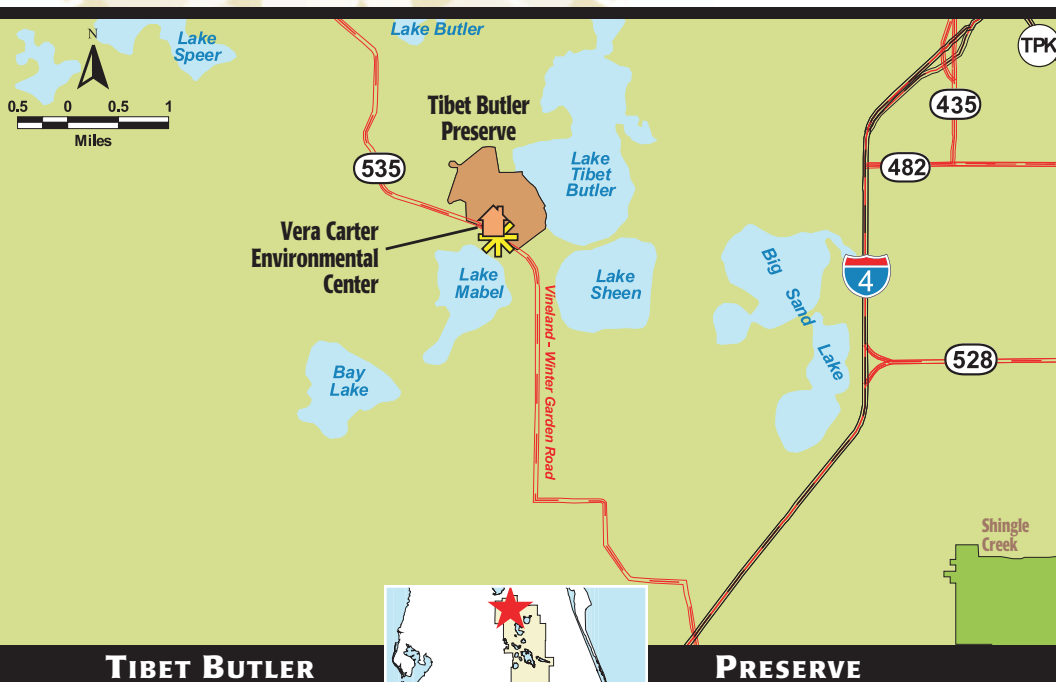
The property borders the Tibet-Butler Chain of Lakes from which it takes its name. A pavilion at the end of Osprey Overlook Trail provides a good view of the cypress forest. This is a great spot for bird watching.

For More Information:

Call the center about their guided hikes, special presentations and hours at (407) 876-6696 (closed Monday and Tuesday).

How to Get There:

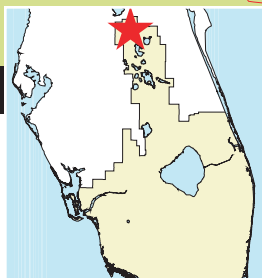
The entrance to the nature center is off C.R. 535. Take Exit 68 (Lake Buena Vista) off I-4. Head north about five miles on C.R. 535 (Winter Garden-Vineland Road). Entrance to the preserve is on the east (right) side of the road.



Access



Environmental/
Education Center



Orange County

439 Acres

Manager: Orange County Parks

Lake Marion Creek Wildlife Management Area

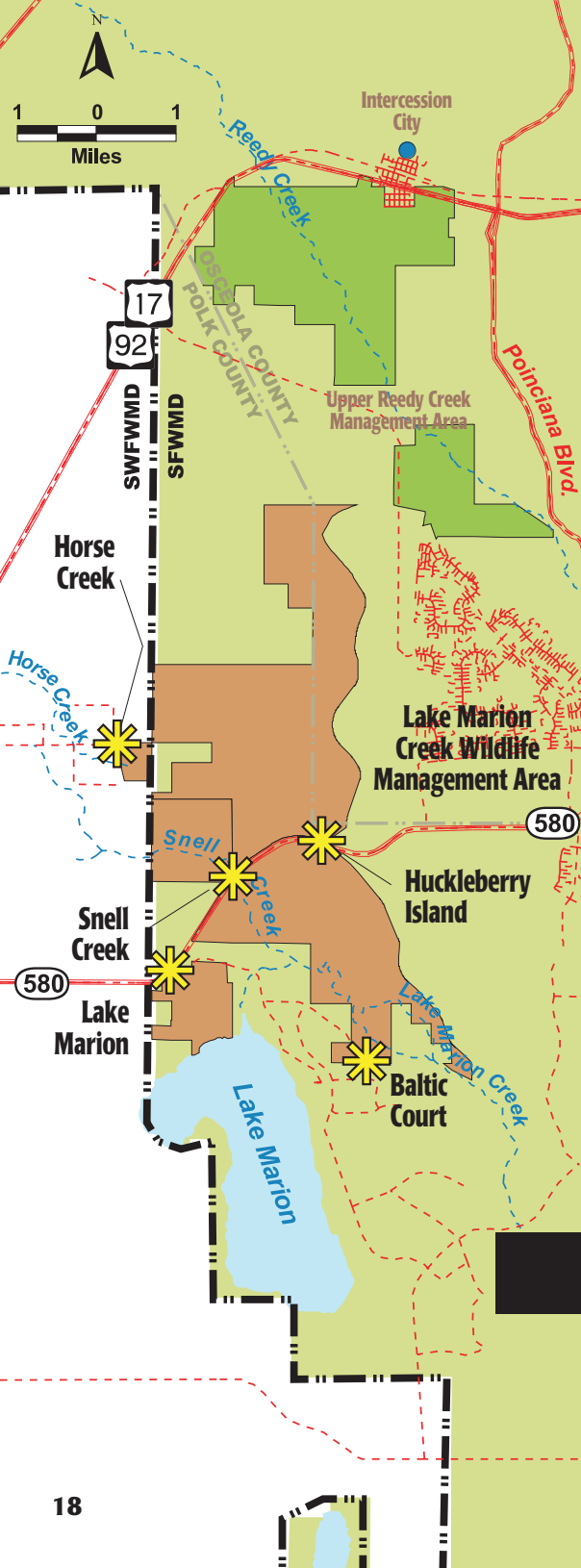
Whether you want to hike a hilly, scrubby area or a flatter but very diverse pine flatwoods, this area has something for everyone! A few inches change in elevation results in a myriad of habitat types: sand hills, pine flatwoods and riverine swamp forests weave a rich tapestry to support an array of wildlife at Lake Marion Creek.

At the Baltic Road unit, you can treat yourself to a slightly aerobic hike in the sugar sand hills where the rare and inquisitive scrub jay will want to make your acquaintance. Here you will find numerous cone-shaped doodle bug depressions, and you might glimpse a rare sand skink. Reward yourself in the shady, lower elevations of fern-carpeted hammocks.

At the flatter Huckleberry Island unit, the three-mile, one-way trail and related firm, grassed fire breaks are among the most popular for hiking and bicycling in Lake Marion Creek. Hardy souls are welcomed to hike two miles for primitive camping. Picnic tables there will help you feel at home. On the way in, areas of open flatwoods and shady swamps alternate to provide a good balance between sun and shade. You will marvel at the lanky, 50- to 60-foot cabbage palms that tower over the swamp hammock canopy. Regular prescribed burns yield numerous meadows of yellow and pink wildflowers in the spring. Bring insect repellent for deer flies during the warm spring and summer months.

For More Information:

Orlando Service Center FL WATS 1-800-250-4250 or (407) 858-6100



LAKE MARION CREEK WILDLIFE MGT. AREA

Osceola & Polk Counties
7,035 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & FWC



Access

Lake Marion Creek Wildlife Management Area Con't.

How to Get There:

Parking and trail access at all six public entry points:

- Three access points along C.R. 580 approximately three miles west of Poinciana at:
 - Huckleberry Island Road
 - Two points at Snell Creek on the north and south sides of C.R. 580 (one-half mile west of Huckleberry Island access point)
- To access these three points from Haines City: From U.S. 27, take the exit for 17/92 North/East, turn right onto Johnson Ave. which becomes C.R. 580, and travel approximately five miles. From Kissimmee: Take U.S. 17/92, Orange Blossom Trail/John Young Parkway south, and turn left onto Pleasant Hill Road. Travel approximately 15 miles. Pleasant Hill Road becomes Cypress Parkway and then C.R. 580.
- Lake Marion Creek Road access point, off C.R. 580, approximately five miles west of Poinciana: Follow the directions above from Haines City, except travel approximately four miles on C.R. 580 coming from Haines City and travel approximately 16 miles on C.R. 580 when traveling from Kissimmee.
- Horse Creek Road off U.S. 17/92 in Davenport: From U.S. 27, exit in Haines City onto U.S. 17/92 North/East, travel approximately five miles and turn right onto Horse Creek Road. Head east 2.5 miles. The road takes a 90-degree turn to the left. The entrance is at the bend on the right.
- Baltic Road off Caspian Road: From Kissimmee, take U.S. 17/92, Orange Blossom Trail/John Young Parkway south and turn left onto Pleasant Hill Road. Travel approximately nine miles, then turn left onto Marigold. Go approximately three miles. The road takes a 90-degree turn to the right and becomes Poinciana Parkway. Travel approximately three miles to Lake Marion Creek Drive and turn right. Travel about three miles, then turn right onto Caspian Road. Travel about one-half mile, then turn left onto Baltic Road. The access point is straight ahead at the end of Baltic Road.

Upper Reedy Creek: Intercession City, Reedy Creek and Lake Russell

Reminiscent of a “blackwater, backwoods swamp,” the Upper Reedy Creek property is mostly impenetrable basin swamp, thick with blackgum, cypress, red maple, bay trees and slash pine. At Intercession City, a clearing of palmetto gives way to a dense hammock that tests your strength and dexterity if you try to get through it. There are no hiking trails here. If you are successful, you’ll need waders to experience the mysteries of a tranquil, wet forest as you get closer to the creek, about two miles in. Bring your camera to capture the textures, contrasts in light and subtle surprises of this quiet place.

A little farther south at the Reedy Creek unit, access is much friendlier, with a hiking trail that begins from an adjacent county-run education center. While the center and other related trails are open to the public only on weekends, you can access the Reedy Creek “Pine Woods Trail” anytime from a small trailhead on Poinciana Blvd. The two-mile, narrow trail ushers you along the swamp edge and includes a section of rebuilt logging railroad track. You’ll pass through bayheads and pine flatwoods, too.

Reedy Creek flows into Lake Russell and is one of the northernmost water sources for the greater Everglades ecosystem. Three miles south of the Reedy Creek unit, the Lake Russell unit is rich in habitat diversity and gets heavily used for environmental education. Osceola County runs a second education center at Lake Russell. A sloping landscape begins with scrub at its highest point, transitions to flatwoods and eventually changes to floodplain forest along the edge of Lake Russell.

Each year thousands of students and teachers experience the wonders first-hand through programs at the centers run by the school district. Weekend hours for the public at the center near the Reedy Creek unit are 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Saturdays and noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays. The Lake Russell center is open to the public only for special events.

Upper Reedy Creek: Intercession City, Reedy Creek and Lake Russell Con't.

For More Information:

Call Osceola County Schools at (407) 847-9108 to leave a message to request information on programs and hours.

How to Get There:

Intercession City:

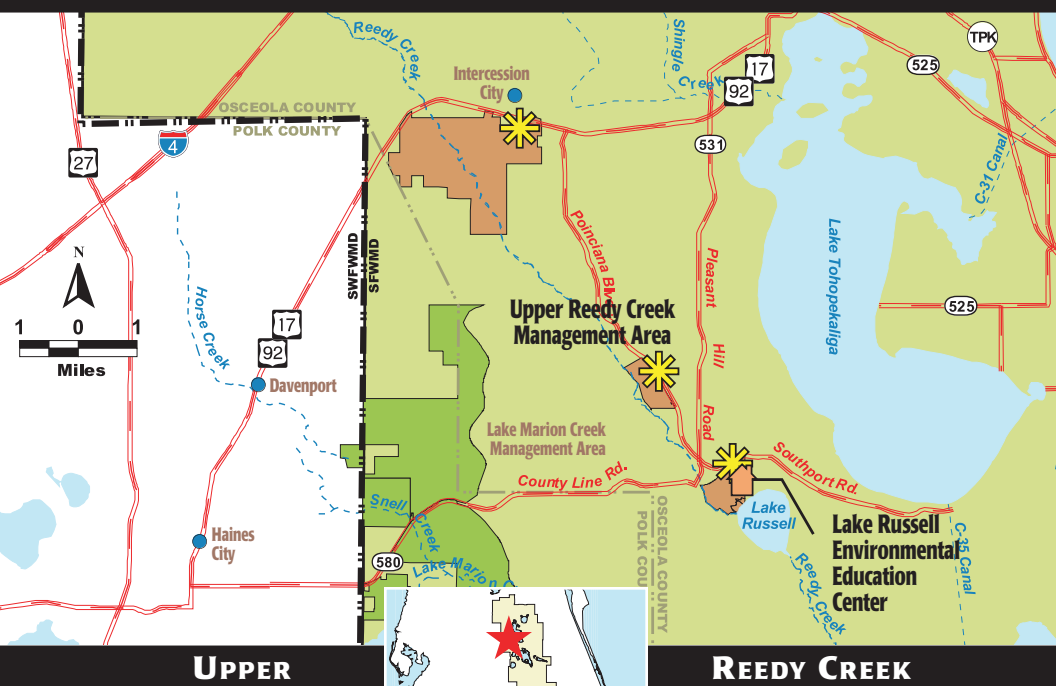
- From Kissimmee, take U.S. 17/92 west to Wiley Ave. Wiley Ave. is about one mile west of Poinciana Blvd.

Reedy Creek Unit:

- From I-4 out of Orlando: Exit 68 and go south on S.R. 535. After 2.9 miles, turn right onto Poinciana Blvd. Travel south approximately 14 miles (crossing both U.S. 192 and U.S. 17/92). Look for the small opening in the woods across from Horse World for limited parking at the trailhead.
- From I-4 going east: Exit 24 and head south toward Kissimmee. Go left onto U.S. 17/92 then right onto Poinciana Blvd.

Lake Russell Education Center:

- Continue south from Horseworld approximately four miles. The entrance is located on Southport Road, one-half mile east of the Pleasant Hill traffic light.



Osceola County
4,070 Acres

Manager: SFWMD & Osceola County School District

Lower Reedy Creek: Rough Island North and South, and Johnson Island

Reedy Creek watershed is one of the most diverse and intact watercourses in the area. While floodplain swamp dominates, 13 additional communities, including rare dry prairie, mesic flatwoods and scrub are also found. You can enjoy this biologically diverse treasure by boat, starting from the closest boat launch at Cypress Lake. There, you are at the southernmost end of a 25-mile-long, unchannelized and seasonally fluctuating blackwater stream that runs south from its headwaters in Lake County through Orange, Osceola and Polk counties. Reedy Creek connects Lake Russell to Cypress Lake and Lake Hatchineha.

As you proceed north, you'll be struck by how open the landscape is—a winding, natural waterway through a marshy pasture that steadily gains vegetation and becomes a canopied creek. Take in the expanding cypress forests, with the youngest trees taking hold at the edge of cypress domes. Plan to take a break at the "Cowboy Camp" established in the 1920s on Rough Island South. You will find picnic tables under mature, shady oaks by hiking one-quarter of a mile from Dead River on Rough Island South or three-quarters of a mile from Reedy Creek hiking north to a large hammock on the south end of Rough Island North. You can explore the property on foot, but there are no established hiking trails. Also, enjoy the picnic area at the south end of Johnson Island.

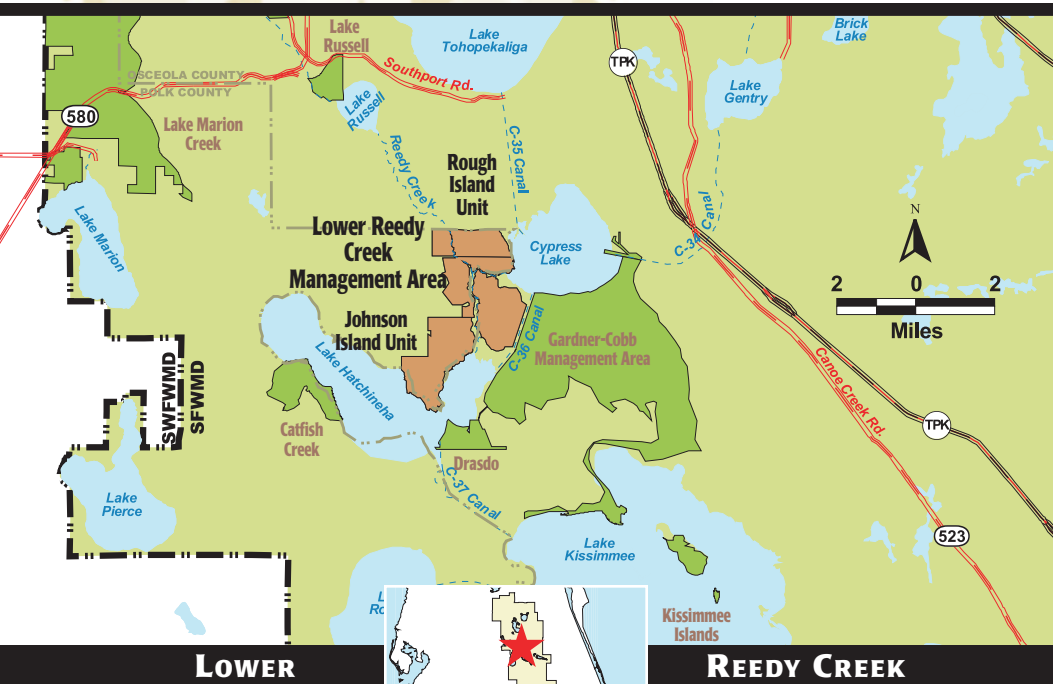
In all, you can go for four miles from the start of Reedy Creek until you reach an area that is off limits during the breeding and nesting season for the federally-endangered wood stork. Access is limited other times of the year. The water level at the lower end of the creek tends to be quite shallow during the dry season, so check ahead for accessibility. Uplands east of the creek support nesting and breeding sites for numerous kinds of birds and provide habitat for wild game such as turkeys and white-tailed deer.

For More Information:

Orlando Service Center FL WATS 1-800-250-4250 or (407) 858-6100

How to Get There:

The closest boat launch is the Lake Cypress Boat Launch. This is a county-maintained boat launch on the right at the end of Lake Cypress Road, which is approximately 11 miles south of St. Cloud on C.R. 523, also known as Canoe Creek Road.



Osceola & Polk Counties
5,039 Acres
Manager: SFWMD

Catfish Creek

From a distance, the border of Lake Hatchineha at Catfish Creek resembles a dramatic, green curtain. Look more closely and you'll see it's actually a solid wall of cypress poised along the edge of the glassy waters. Nestled by the lake, Catfish Creek is a popular landing for airboats. But when the water level is high, at about 51', a canoe or kayak ride along the cypress strand is enjoyable. You'll feel snug as you paddle between the marshy vegetation on the lakeside and the cypress on the land side. On higher ground at the lake's edge, ancient oaks grow in an unusual manner and provide the weary traveler with a good spot to rest. The massive tree limbs that snake along the ground could be mistaken for benches. Consider also a canoe or kayak trek into the property from a ditch adjacent to Port Hatchineha. It's a surprisingly scenic route that opens into marsh.

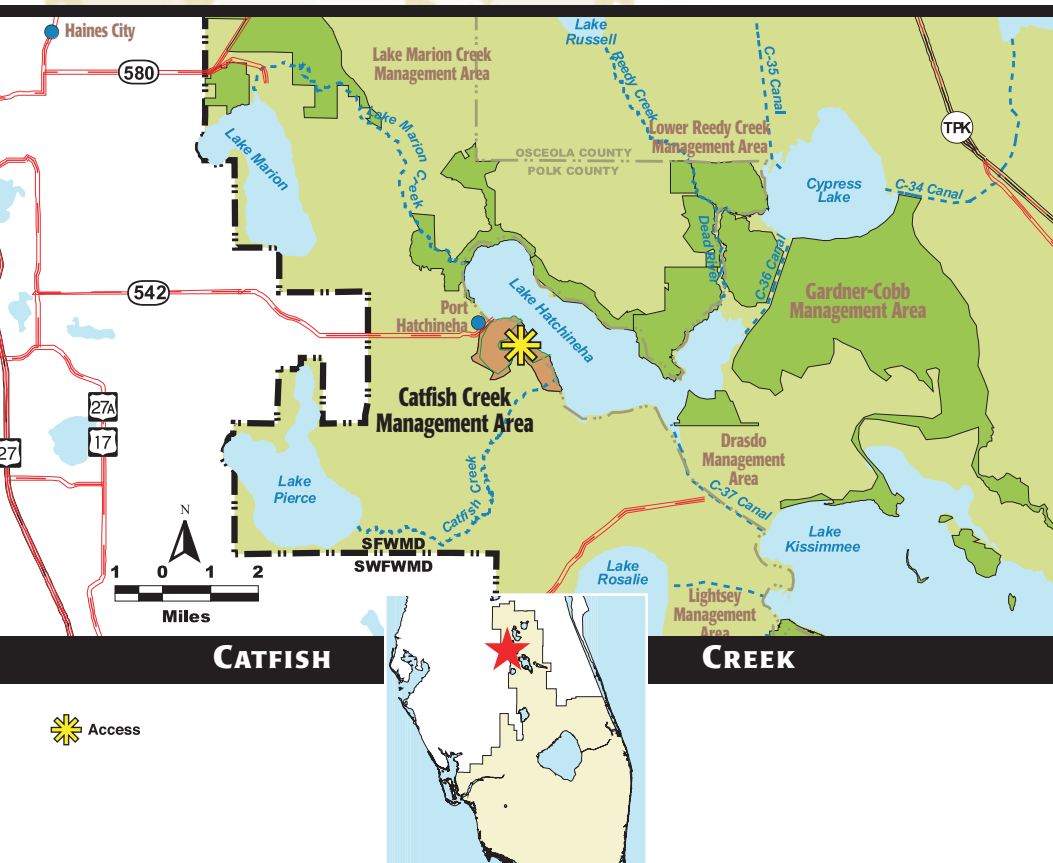
Be sure to explore the property by foot via a series of grassed roads or along the perimeter of the property. With the exception of the oak hammock, it's soggy, but it's abundant with wildlife, including birds, deer, turkey alligators, bald eagles and turtles. Just like ocean-going turtles, freshwater turtles lay their eggs in the sand, too; in this case, within the sandy lake edge. This sometimes provides a tasty meal for other animals. Look for exposed, half-eaten eggshells and nearby raccoon tracks that give them away as the thief.

For More Information:

Orlando Service Center FL WATS 1-800-250-4250 or (407) 858-6100

How to Get There:

Port Hatchineha: From Lake Wales, travel north on U.S. 27 approximately eight miles and turn right on C.R. 542 in Dundee. Go approximately 1.5 miles and turn right onto Lake Hatchineha Road. Travel to end.



Gardner-Cobb Marsh and Drasdo

Accessible only by boat or airboat, Gardner-Cobb Marsh is the largest District property in the Upper Chain of Lakes region. Gentle slopes in elevation by only a few inches or feet result in a rolling landscape that produces a contrast in natural communities. Swamps, pine flatwoods and wet prairie, which burst forth in the fall and spring with an abundance of wildflowers, dominate the landscape. Rest in the shady oak hammock, explore the property or set up camp at the primitive campsite after you park your boat along the sandy shoreline. Among airboaters, the landing there is known as "The Yacht Club." The land is productive and is a good place to hunt deer and turkey.

You can walk along the oak and cypress-lined berm just landward from the lake's edge to the neighboring Drasdo property, or arrive there by boat, as well. A small area at the southeast corner is very high ground where a special resident lives. The scrub jay, a listed species, forages there in rare scrub habitat. A more common habitat is "prairie hammock." This classic Florida landscape sports cabbage palms and live oak trees among grassy prairies and marshes.

Enjoy fishing at the lake's edge or anywhere else on the property that's fishable.

For More Information:

Orlando Service Center FL WATS 1-800-250-4250
or (407) 858-6100

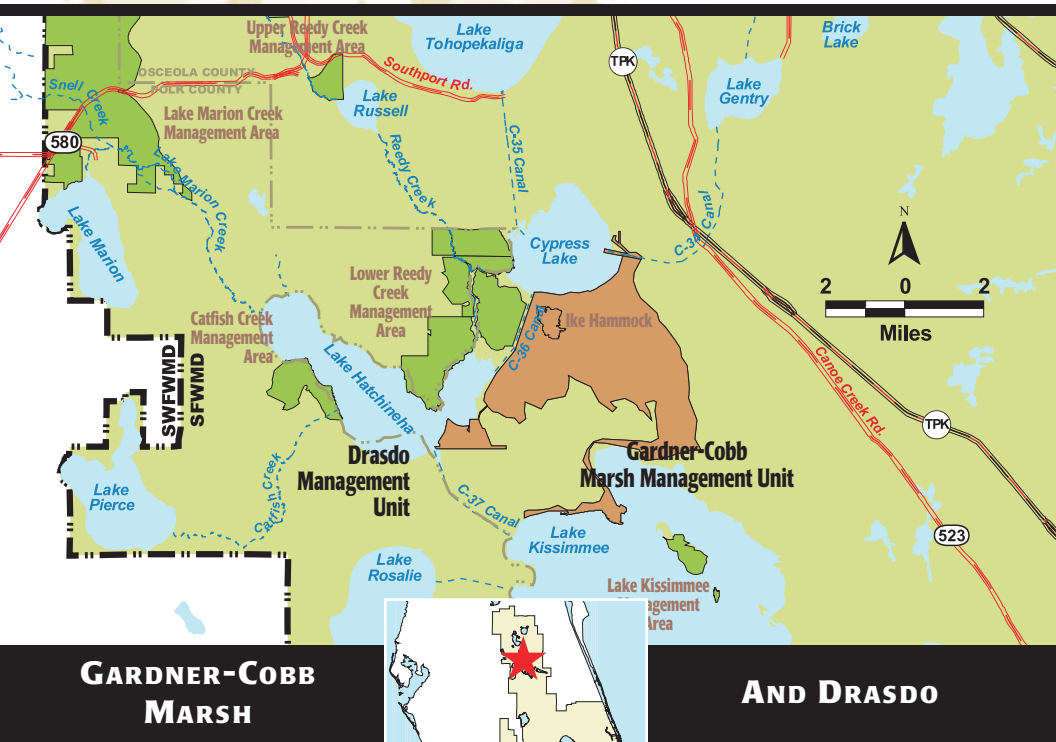
How to Get There:

Access is by airboat or boat from private launches on the C-37 canal and at Port Hatchineha. Osceola County maintains two boat ramps at Lake Cypress and Lake Kissimmee.

Port Hatchineha: From Lake Wales, travel north on U.S. 27 approximately eight miles and turn left on C.R. 542 in Dundee. C.R. 542 turns left in Dundee. Go approximately 1.5 miles and turn right onto Lake Hatchineha Road. Travel to the end.

C-37 Canal at Camp Mack: From Lake Wales, travel east on S.R. 60 from the intersection with U.S. 27 approximately seven miles and turn left onto Boy Scout Camp Road. The road ends at Camp Mack Road. Turn right and follow to the end.

Lake Cypress and Lake Kissimmee: From St. Cloud, travel south on Canoe Creek Road approximately 10 miles to Lake Cypress Road and 20 miles to Joe Overstreet Road for Lake Kissimmee access.



Osceola & Polk Counties
1,714 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & FWC

SUMICA

SUMICA, once slated for watermelon farming, is the site of a former logging community and sawmill. It's nestled beside the 7,500-acre Lake Walk-in-Water or "Lake Weohyakapka." Boasting an expanse of pine flatwoods, the land also supports a diversity of marshes and a picturesque oak hammock. Enjoy a short boardwalk and observation deck in the sawgrass marsh, which is next to a scenic cypress dome. The sun-dappled, leaf-carpeted oak hammock is a perfect place to stroll, too. Look for an unusual, artistic sight by the lake. Someone carved a three-foot tall likeness of a woman into the face of an old-growth oak. For a longer hike, enjoy the four miles of hiking trails on the property. Horseback riders can explore nearly seven miles of trail. You can picnic, camp (primitive) and bicycle as well.

Bring your fishing pole. Lake-Walk-in-Water is a popular fishing spot. It has good water clarity because of an abundance of hydrilla and it is shallow, averaging between five and six feet deep. Numerous stands of bulrush and eel grass benefit the fishery. The best access to fishing is by boat. Nearby ramps are available. Boat trails through the hydrilla allow maneuverability.

The county arranges special opportunity hog hunts periodically.

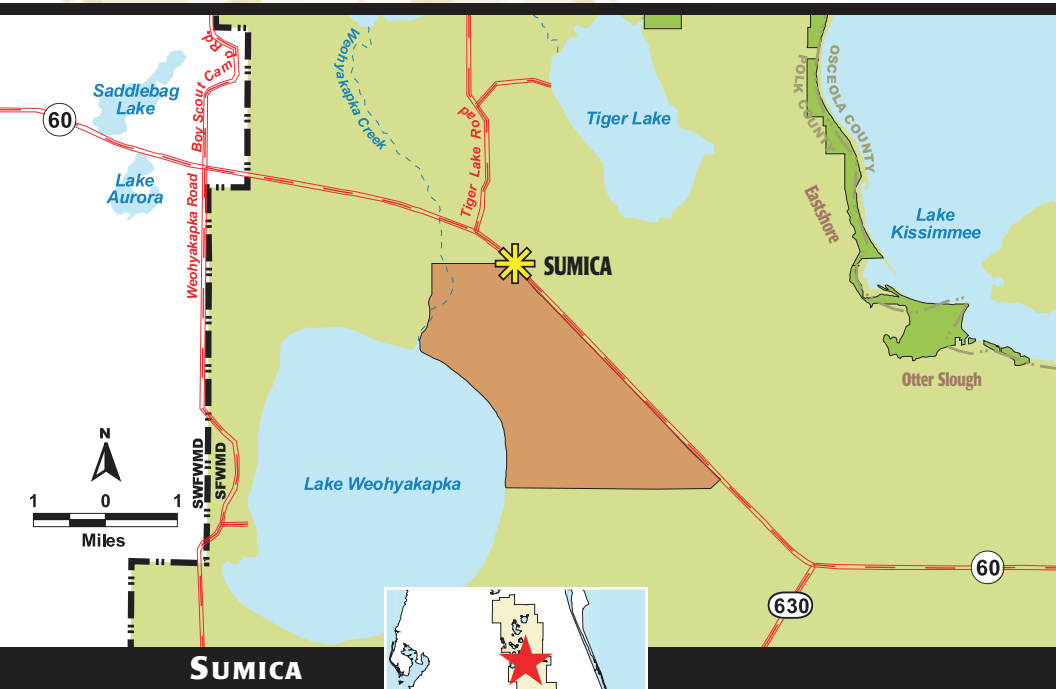
SUMICA is an acronym for the name of a French entity that ran the logging operation.

For More Information:

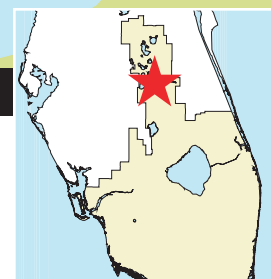
Orlando Service Center FL WATS 1-800-250-4250
or (407) 858-6100

How to Get There:

Proceed on S.R. 60 approximately 10 miles east of Lake Wales. The property is located just north of Indian Lakes Estates. The parking area is three quarters of a mile southeast of Tiger Lake Road or one-quarter mile northwest of Sam Keene Road on the southwest side of S.R. 60.

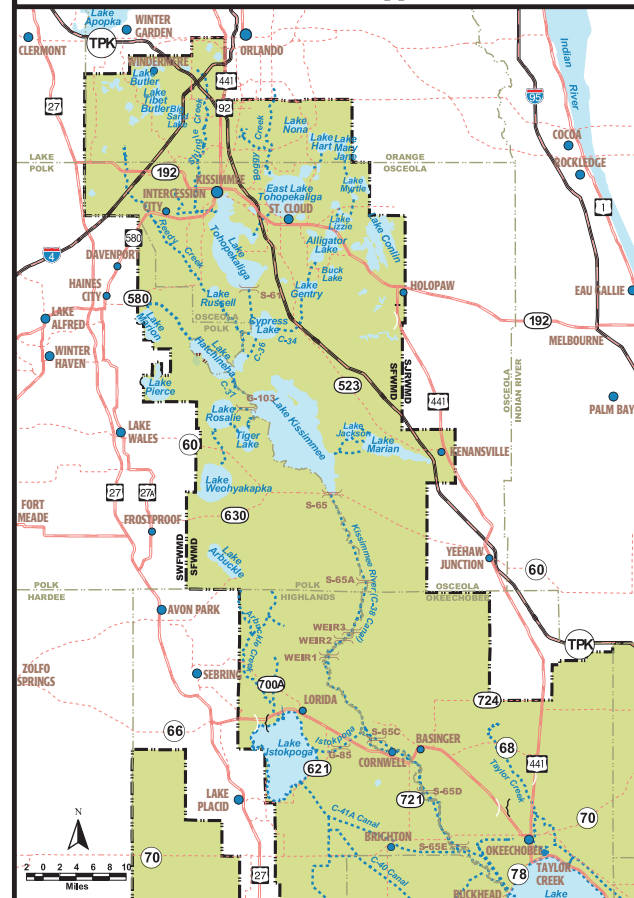


Access

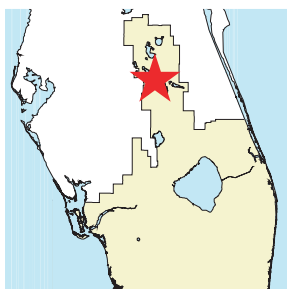


Polk County
4,109 Acres
Manager: Polk County

Kissimmee River Restoration (Upper & Lower Basins)



KISSIMMEE RIVER RESTORATION



Polk, Osceola, Highlands,
Okeechobee, and Glades
Counties

Kissimmee River Restoration will restore ecological integrity to the river and ecosystem by reestablishing 40 square miles of river and floodplain habitat, including 27,000 acres of wetland and 43 continuous miles of meandering river channel. The segment of restored river will run roughly from the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park southward through the Seaboard Marsh. Project completion is scheduled for 2012.

Lots of cows roam the Chain of Lakes and Kissimmee River properties. The District gives ranchers interim leases on lands slated for restoration. Cattle help manage unwanted vegetation on the property. Watch out for ruts where cattle have made trails. Also take care when boating, as cows lounge in waterways or at the lake's edge to cool off. Cows with calves are very protective, so give them a wide berth.

Take a group boat tour to see the restored Kissimmee River. For information, call Florida Atlantic University's Center for Environmental Studies at 1-800-443-2045, ext. 3190. They usually stop three miles upstream from S-65C along the old river at Micco Run shelter where there is a screened-in picnic pavilion. Bring your lunch and enjoy the wonderful view. You can go in your own boat, as well.

Kissimmee River Restoration

Did you know you're viewing the world's largest river restoration project when you visit lands along the Kissimmee River and into the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes? The District has purchased nearly all of the 110,000 acres of land needed to store water and restore wetlands in the headwater lakes and along the river. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a partner in the restoration and is helping to fund the project.

Background: The historic Kissimmee River meandered 103 miles within a one- to two-mile wide floodplain until the 1960s when the natural river system was channelized to quickly remove excess water from the Chain of Lakes, thereby alleviating flooding in the upper basin. Water control structures regulated a series of five impounded reservoirs, Pools A-E, in the newly created canal. Channelization dried up the historic floodplain, where wading birds declined by 90 percent.

Completed Restoration: Between 1999 and 2001, 7.5 miles between Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park and Cornwell Marsh were filled in with the old spoil originally dug to create the canal. This forced water back into the original riverbed, creating 15 miles of continuous, reconnected river and 11,000 acres of wetland.

Plans in the Works: The remainder of the restoration will take place in two phases and will be finished in 2012.

Phases Two and Three: Work will begin in 2008 and will include removal of the S-65C locks and filling in the canal from the Seaboard Railroad northward to the south end of the Phase One backfill. Areas included in restoration are Seaboard Marsh North, Micco Landing, Cornwell Marsh East and West, and Turkey Hammock East and West.

Phase Four: This will begin in 2005 and will fill the canal from Boney Marsh and No Name Slough to the central part of Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park's western boundary. Areas included in restoration are No Name Slough, Boney Marsh, Avon Park Air Force Range and Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park.

KICCO and Blanket Bay Slough

On the west side of the Kissimmee River is KICCO, which is pronounced kiss-oh. It takes its name from the Kissimmee Island Cattle Company that operated here from 1915 through the late '20s. KICCO contributed to the development of central Florida towns such as Kissimmee and Sebring that depended on beef production and river trade. At one time, the KICCO settlement had homes, a bunkhouse, mess hall, company store, ice house, power plant, schoolhouse and even its own steamboat landing!

Even though nearly 100 years have passed, KICCO is a place where you can go to get the real feel of "old Florida." In this region you will enjoy a rich patchwork of habitat extremes from scrub to marsh.

Experience the ambience by camping at any of five primitive campsites equipped with picnic tables, bicycling a ten-mile (one-way) dirt road, hiking 11 miles of the Florida National Scenic Trail, or riding your own horse. Remember your fishing pole. Bass lurk in the waters of the C-38 canal and the oxbows of the Old Kissimmee River.

Consider primitive waterfront camping on the opposite, east side of the river at Blanket Bay Slough. The sheltered campsite, accessible only by boat, is readily seen from the river. There are no hiking trails on Blanket Bay, as it is mainly marsh. But during the dry season from November through March, you can hike along the river and take in a refreshing view of the water.

For More Information:

Okeechobee Service Center FL WATS 1-800-250-4200
or (863) 462-5260



KICCO and Blanket Bay Slough Con't.

How to Get There:

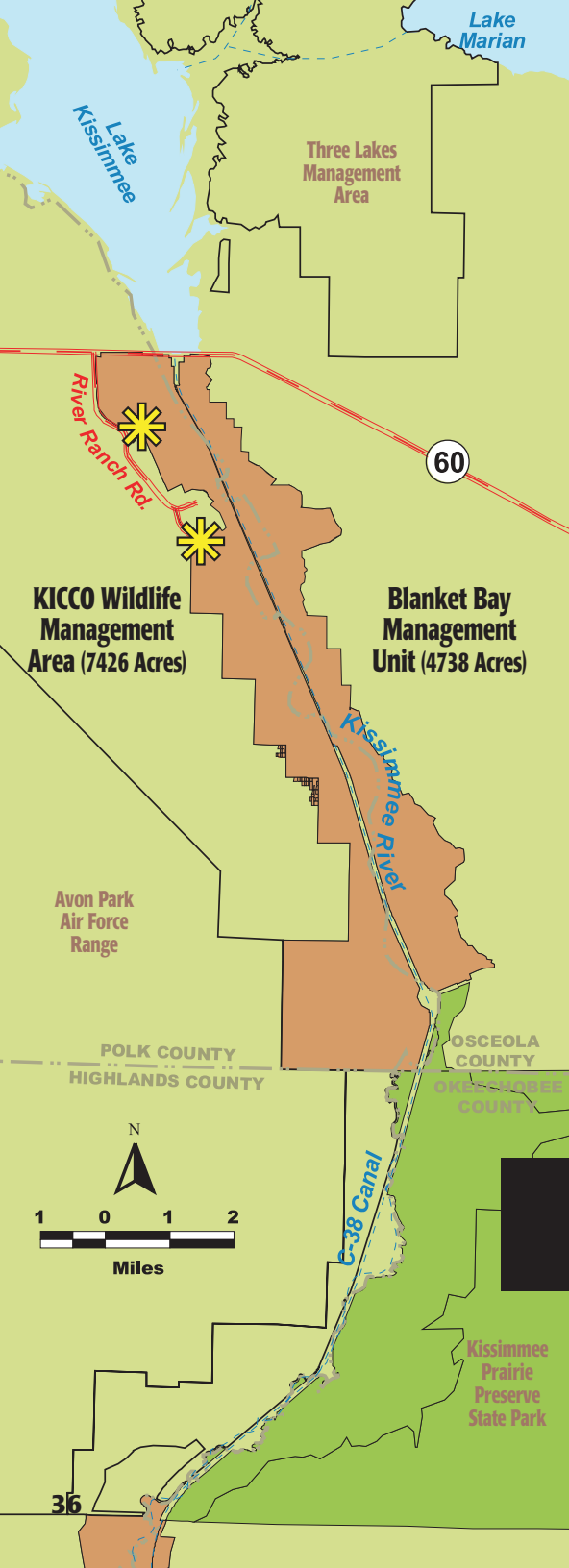
KICCO:

Access by foot, bicycle or horse.

- Access provided from the public boat ramp off Hwy. 60 and at two trailhead/parking areas. The first access point is on the east side of River Ranch Blvd. about three miles south of the junction with Hwy. 60.
- The second is at the north end of KICCO Road which is about one-quarter mile past the Westgate River Ranch Resort guard house at the south end of River Ranch Blvd. To get there from Lake Wales: Take Hwy. 60 east for 21.1 miles to Westgate River Ranch Resort. From Yeehaw Junction (junction of 441 and 60) go west 19 miles on Hwy. 60. Look for the Westgate River Ranch sign on the south side of the road.

Blanket Bay Slough:

- Access is by boat only from the boat launch on the west side of the C-38 canal, just west of the Disston Bridge that spans the junction of the extreme northerly section of the Kissimmee River and the south end of Lake Kissimmee at Hwy. 60. Take Hwy. 60 from Lake Wales, 21 miles to the east, and from Yeehaw Junction, 19 miles to the west.



KICCO AND BLANKET BAY SLOUGH

Osceola & Polk Counties
12,164 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & FWC



Access



Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park

This remote and sweeping preserve is reminiscent of western prairies. But here, cabbage palms dot the landscape. Dry prairie is an imperiled habitat and hosts rare and endangered species, including the Florida grasshopper sparrow, burrowing owl and the crested caracara. Despite its name, though, this site is diverse, with low areas forming lush sloughs and wetlands.

Seventy-nine species of butterflies are documented here – the most at any one location in the state. Be sure to pick up a butterfly and bird checklist while you're at the park's office. Relax in rocking chairs on the office porch and view wildflowers in the spring and fall that sprinkle color in the midst of grasses and low-growing saw palmettos. Or browse the gift shop and butterfly collection inside.

With 116 miles of multi-use trails for hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking, you can be on the trail all day and never see another visitor. Besides its remoteness, the preserve is also known for its dark nighttime sky. Astronomy enthusiasts say it is the darkest in Florida, which makes it ideal for stargazing. Ask about special ranger-guided viewings through the preserve's telescope.

History buffs will enjoy the preserve, too! Military Trail, a dirt road on the property that leads to the Kissimmee River, once connected two army forts, Fort Drum and Fort Kissimmee. Another road, the Peavine Trail, follows an old railroad bed built in 1910. Look for an impressive gathering of alligators in Seven Mile Slough, a short walk from the parking area at the corner of Military and Peavine Trails.

Of course you can enjoy camping at the preserve, but you probably didn't expect buggy tours. The tours are offered on weekends and national holidays from fall to early spring.

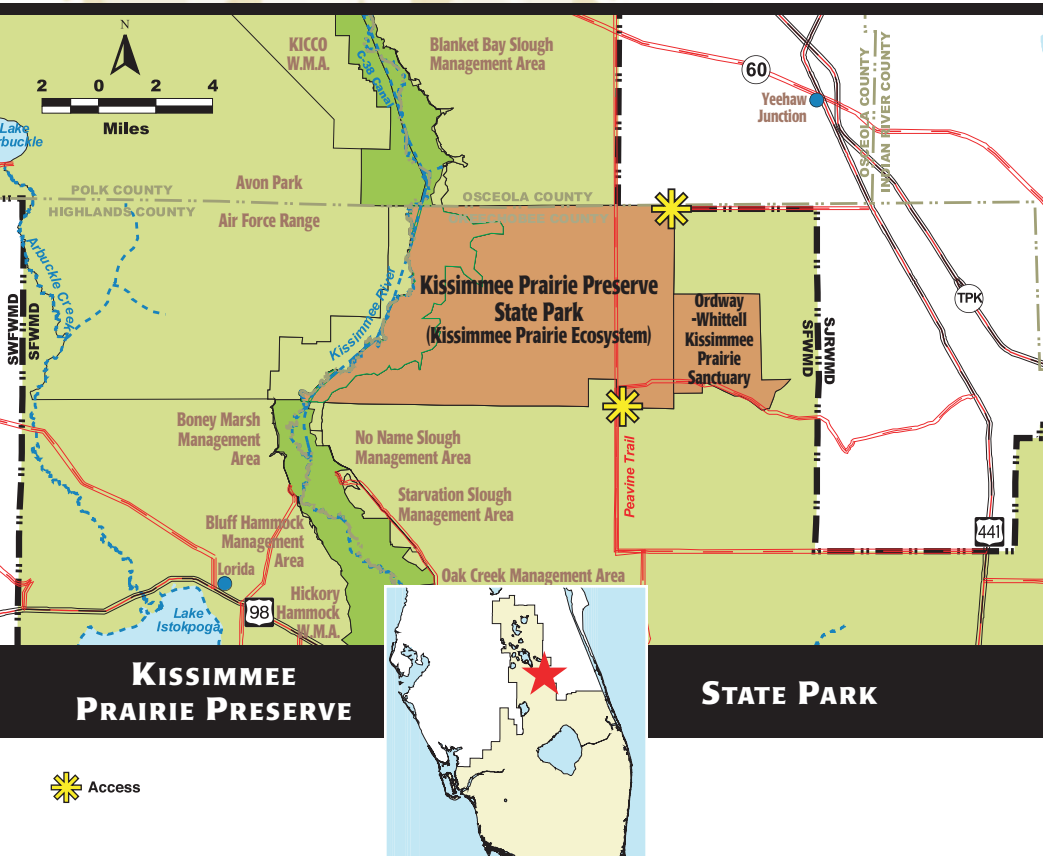
Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park Con't.

For More Information:

Call the park office at (863) 462-5360.

How to Get There:

Access is off C.R. 724. Parking is at the park office five miles inside the park. Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park is approximately 25 miles northwest of the City of Okeechobee. The preserve is located five miles north of the western terminus of C.R. 724. U.S. Hwy. 441 and C.R. 700A intersect C.R. 724. To get there from Okeechobee, take Hwy. 98 north to C.R. 700A or U.S. 441 to C.R. 724. Follow the signs.



Okeechobee County
55,000 Acres
Manager: Florida Park Service

Boney Marsh, Bluff Hammock Units and Hickory Hammock Wildlife Management Area

Majestic live oaks on either side of the hiking trail offer a welcome as you enter the vintage panorama of Hickory Hammock. Marshes, patches of scrub and oak, hickory and cabbage palm hammocks await exploration. Remnants of the Istokpoga Slough provide cool relief to the landscape. With all this diversity, it's easy to see why Hickory Hammock is a stop along the Great Florida Birding Trail and the Everglades Trail.

A section of the Florida National Scenic Trail winds for 11 miles through the properties. Several primitive campsites along the trail beckon you for rest. Three miles north of Hickory Hammock, a 25-foot high bridge rewards the hiker with a grand view of the gentle meanders and marshes of the restored Kissimmee River. Follow the trail north through Boney Marsh for a spectacular walk through a fringe of live oaks, palms, bay and holly trees on the edge of the Kissimmee floodplain. Hikers may continue north through the Avon Park Air Force Range.

Horseback riding is popular at Hickory Hammock and Bluff Hammock. An equestrian center with stables and non-potable water is available, along with primitive campsites for horseback riders. Ten miles of marked equestrian trails, interior dirt roads and fire breaks provide the rider with a varied landscape.

Bicycling enthusiasts will enjoy riding on a two-mile section of the old Sebring Grade on the south half of Hickory Hammock. Now grassed and canopied by overhanging tree limbs, the road connected Sebring and Basinger before U.S. Hwy. 98 was built in 1949. You can also enjoy bike riding on the interior "woods road," an old ranch along the hammocks.



Boney Marsh, Bluff Hammock Units and Hickory Hammock Wildlife Management Area Con't.

For More Information:

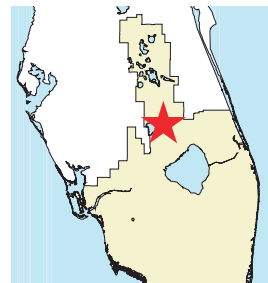
Okeechobee Service Center FL WATS 1-800-250-4200
or (863) 462-5260

How to Get There:

Enter by hiking, bicycling or horse.

Four access points on the east side of Hwy. 98, which runs between
Sebring and Okeechobee:

- Bluff Hammock hiking trailhead is at the end of Bluff Hammock Road. Bluff Hammock Road is 14 miles south of Sebring and 35 miles north of Okeechobee.
- Equestrian access is at the end of McArthur Road, three miles north of the main Hickory Hammock trailhead.
- Main trailhead at Hickory Hammock is eight miles southeast of Lorida, and about one-half mile northwest of the Istokpoga Canal (18 miles south of Sebring and 33 miles north of Okeechobee on Hwy. 98).
- Access for hiking trail also at the south "walk-over" in the Hickory Hammock perimeter fence. It's immediately north of the Istokpoga Canal on Hwy. 98.



BONEY MARSH, BLUFF HAMMOCK AND HICKORY HAMMOCK MANAGEMENT AREA

Okeechobee & Highlands
Counties
9,060 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & FWC



Oak Creek, No Name and Starvation Slough Management Units

Oak Creek has many old-growth oaks, some as large as nearly five feet in diameter, along the eastern edge of the Kissimmee River floodplain. Enjoy the shade while you look toward the water's edge. On a spring day, you'll delight in watching butterflies flit about from wildflower to wildflower.

The dominant feature of the property is the creek, with a floodplain that spreads out to join the restored Kissimmee River. Hiking is best during the drier winter months. You'll pass through several bay heads where 20- to 30-foot bay trees grow in the margin of the creek. Use the walk-through gate at the parking area to get to the picnic tables. Primitive camping is available, and sites have fire rings and picnic tables.

You are permitted to fish in the restored portion of the Kissimmee River. The best access is by airboat, canoe or kayak from the Oak Creek Boat Launch at the north entrance.

The Oak Creek Boat Launch also provides access to Starvation Slough and No Name Slough. If you walk far enough west into the floodplain anywhere along the No Name Slough, you will see the filled portion of the canal. You may ride a horse at both sloughs. An old woods road winds for about three miles through the hammock from the parking area at the north entrance to Oak Creek through Starvation Slough. Riders may take this road though Starvation Slough then continue across the old S-65B tie-back levee along fire breaks into No Name, which continues north for about two miles.



Oak Creek, No Name and Starvation Slough Management Units Con't.

For More Information:

Okeechobee Service Center FL WATS 1-800-250-4200
or (863) 462-5260

How to Get There:

There are two entrances to Oak Creek (access to Starvation and No Name is from Oak Creek), both on Micco Bluff Road approximately 1.5 miles apart:

- North entrance—Oak Creek Trailhead and Boat Launch. Access by foot or shallow-drift boat (airboat, canoe or kayak). Parking by boat launch and walk-through gate.
- South entrance—south of the creek, includes parking and informational kiosk. Walk one mile to picnic area and primitive campsite from parking area.

Micco Bluff Road is off Hwy. 98 in Ft. Basinger, approximately 28 miles southeast of Sebring, and about 25 miles north of Okeechobee. Turn north on NW 203rd Ave. next to the white block Basinger Community Center. Go to the stop sign and make a left turn onto Micco Bluff Road (160th Street). Veer right at NW 285th Street. The south entrance is 7.5 miles from Hwy. 98 and the north entrance is about nine miles from Hwy. 98. Both entrances are on the left.



OAK CREEK, NO NAME AND STARVATION SLOUGH MANAGEMENT AREAS

Okeechobee County
4,106 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & FWC



Turkey Hammock and Cornwell Marshes; MICCO Landing

Turkey Hammock and Cornwell marshes were formally floodplain, converted to pasture. The property now sports a boat ramp, surrounded by grandfather oaks, a cypress dome and cabbage palms. When you push off your boat from the S-65C boat ramp and go left, you'll see a borrow ditch on the south side of Turkey Hammock West. As you view the waterway, your "ugly ditch" perception will be changed. The mile-long ditch resembles a narrow stream, where you'll find almost every local flowering marsh plant along its course.

Pink marsh mallow "hibiscus," purple pickerel weed, yellow primrose, creamy water hemlock and button-bush flowers are on display. Hard-to-spot native water spider orchids, with humble yellowish-purple flowers on smooth, green stalks peek through the thick grasses. Keep your eye out for bonnet worms. They are known as "bonnets" to the locals and make squiggly lines on the spatterdock. The worms are good fish bait.

Airboats are primarily used in the waterway, but consider a canoe or kayak instead. Be sure to flag your boat. Enjoy this spot while you can, as the S-65C lock and access road will be removed in a future river restoration phase, around 2008. Restoration will flood the area, but the river will greatly benefit over all.

The ditch currently flows into the old river. It's an open landscape for most of the way as you head north toward the C-38, but unusually large cypress trees about halfway through make the trek worth the effort. You can also put in at the Istokpoga Canal and come east to this stretch.

Moving south to the Cornwell Marsh, split in half by the C-38, you'll find canoe and kayak access at the 4-E's non-motorized boat ramp off Hwy. 98. A brown sign marks the entrance. As late as the 1970s, a store, gas pump, cook shack, docks, RV park and bluegrass stage made this a friendly stop on the historic Kissimmee Boat-a-Cade. All that remains are remnant concrete pads and some dock timbers that were originally used as supports for the old wooden bridge across the Kissimmee at Fort Basinger. Today, the most striking asset of this find is a beautiful oak hammock. A short, leaf-littered road serves as an abbreviated, half-mile long nature trail.



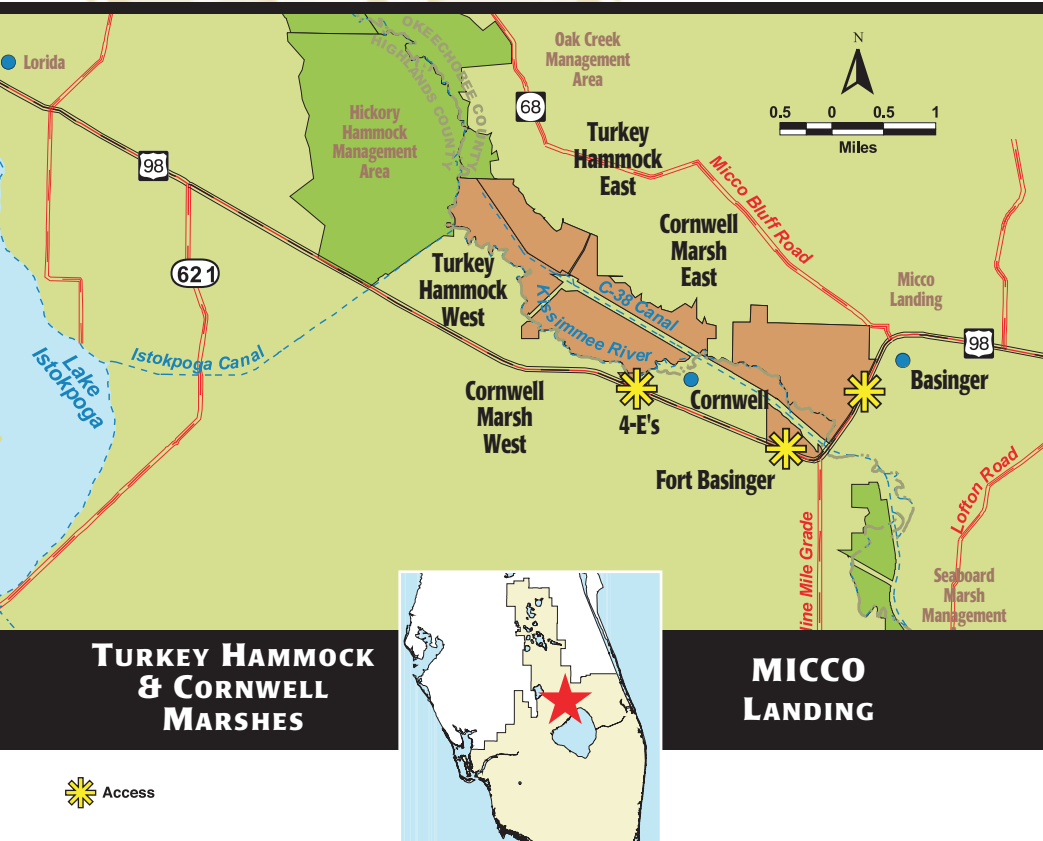
Turkey Hammock and Cornwell Marshes; MICCO Landing Con't.

For More Information:

The management plan for MICCO is under development.
Call SFWMD for details: (561) 686-8800, ext. 3022. or
Okeechobee Service Center FL WATS 1-800-250-4200

How to Get There:

Turkey Hammock and Cornwell Marsh: Take Hwy. 98 north from Okeechobee or east from Sebring. Approximately six miles northwest of Fort Basinger is the S-65C Access Road. Turn right onto the access road and go to the end where a concrete boat ramp is provided for larger boats and an unimproved dirt ramp is available for small boats, canoes, kayaks and airboats. Both of these sites also can be reached by using the unimproved ramp next to the Istokpoga Canal bridge on Hwy. 98.



Okeechobee & Highlands Counties
4,659 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & FWC

Seaboard Marsh, Telex Marsh and Yates Marsh

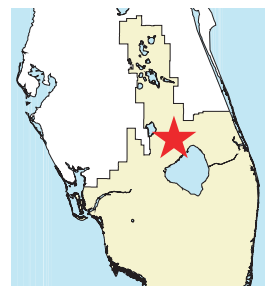
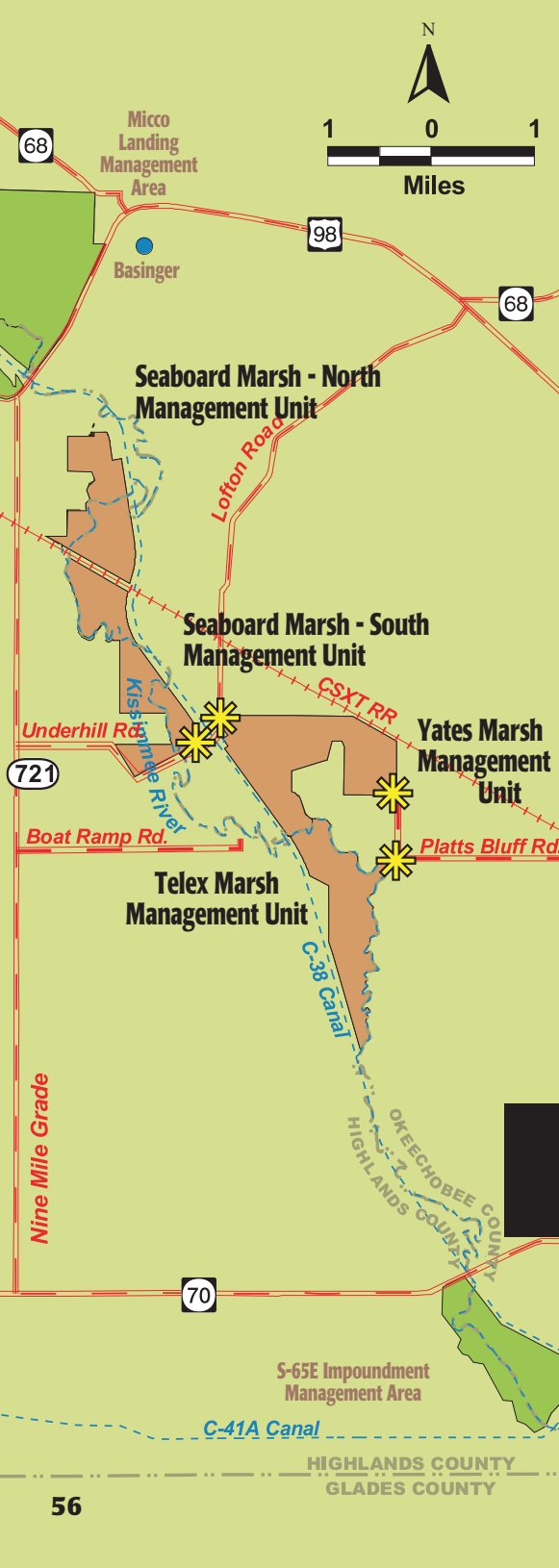
Overhanging oak limbs frame a view of the old Kissimmee River as it winds its way between Telex and Yates marshes. Your imagination is captured by a nearby rope swing that old timers say has been there since their childhood.

If you decide to canoe all the way around Telex Marsh, make sure you plan your route to go downstream on the C-38 so you don't have to fight the current. Enjoy the fern-lined spoil banks along the old river that were created when the river was dredged for steamships. Today, the banks look like miniature river bluffs and boast many mature oaks.

Investigate Seaboard Marsh to the north by boat. If you put in from Platts Bluff, you'll have to head several miles north and go through the lock at S-65D, but you can also put in at other locations closer to Seaboard. Watch for blue gill beds in the spring and summer in the shallows of the riverside. It's difficult to decide where the best place is to see the old river, but Seaboard Marsh is near the top of the list. Lined with towering oaks and massive, moss-drenched cypress, and lit with silvery flashes of fluttering loblolly bay leaves, this shady stretch of the river is stunning. Old river cuts are ideal for airboat traffic and canoes, where accessible. North and South Seaboard marshes will be connected at the train trestle in several years when that stretch of the river is opened by removing thick, overgrown plants.

Telex and Seaboard are accessible only by boat, but you can get to Yates Marsh by car. There, landlubbers will enjoy a hike through the oak-lined eastern boundary of Yates where the Florida National Scenic Trail runs through it. Pitch a tent at the primitive campsite for a respite from hiking.





SEABOARD MARSH, TELEX MARSH AND YATES MARSH

Okeechobee & Highlands
Counties
2,105 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & FWC



Access

Seaboard Marsh, Telex Marsh and Yates Marsh Con't.

For More Information:

Okeechobee Service Center FL WATS 1-800-250-4200
or (863) 462-5260

How to Get There:

Seaboard Marsh: Accessible by boat from C-38 and a grassed boat ramp off Underhill Road.

Underhill Road: Take C.R. 721 (Nine Mile Grade) north from Hwy. 70 or south from Hwy. 98. Underhill Road is on the east side near the Butler Oaks Dairy. S-65 D is at the east end of Underhill Rd.

Yates Marsh: Accessible by boat from the C-38 canal, old Kissimmee River, Platt's Bluff Road and a trailhead with parking on Lofton Road (NW 144th Trail) next to S-65D.

Platt's Bluff: From Okeechobee, take Hwy. 70 west to Gache Road (NW 128th Drive). Take a right on Gache and travel north about 3.5 miles to Platts Bluff Road. Take a left on Platts Bluff and travel west about two miles. The concrete boat ramp is at the end of Platts Bluff at an undeveloped county park.

Lofton Road (NW 144th Trail): From Okeechobee, take Hwy. 98 north for approximately 10 miles. Lofton Road turns left off Hwy. 98 just before the C.R. 68 intersection. From Sebring and the west, take Hwy. 98 East to Basinger. Lofton Road is on the right just after crossing the double bridges of Cypress Slough, a very long cypress strand – normally a nesting area for a large vulture population.

Telex Marsh: Telex is accessible from the old Kissimmee River and C-38. The most convenient way to get there is to put in at Platt's Bluff. The land immediately across the water from the boat ramp is Telex. It is also accessible from a Highlands County Park and boat ramp located off C.R. 721 (Nine Mile Grade) on Boat Ramp Road, immediately west of Telex Marsh.

S-65E Impoundment and Paradise Run

At the end of the old Kissimmee River, on the north side of S-65E, you'll find an expanse of thick marsh that is virtually inaccessible, except for cuts in the old river. The old river resembles the look of the C-38 canal here because it is very wide as it runs through the overgrown marsh. There aren't many places to get out and walk into the impoundment, but the more adventurous might want to park by the marshy pasture at the north end and walk to higher ground to find a shady oak for a picnic. Since this portion of the river is not as heavily visited as others, this would be a good place to canoe or kayak, but bring sunscreen, a hat and water because there is little shade. From a historical perspective, this is a good place to see where the old river dead-ends at a levee to the south. This levee and a canal separate S-65E Impoundment and Paradise Run.

The western border of Paradise Run resembles the edge of a puzzle piece because the old Kissimmee River, with its snaking switchbacks, forms the boundary. Fishing is good in the old river. To the east, toward the C-38, is open, marshy pasture and spoil from the dredging of C-38. This is where the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission oversees small game and waterfowl hunts, which are the main attractions for visitors in this area. No airboats are allowed at Paradise Run, but it can be accessed from C-38 by crossing the levee or via the old Kissimmee River from Buckhead Ridge. Among the sites commonly seen at Paradise Run are a large population of burrowing owls, and several bald eagles—both mature and juveniles—who spend their days along Paradise Run.



S-65E Impoundment and Paradise Run Con't.

For More Information:

Okeechobee Service Center FL WATS 1-800-250-4200
or (863) 462-5260

How to Get There:

S-65E Impoundment: Launch from a ramp on the north side of Hwy. 70. From Okeechobee, go west on Hwy. 70. The boat ramp is on the north side of the road immediately after the bridge.

Paradise Run: Launch from the ramps at Okee-Tantie or Scott Driver boat ramp on the north side of Hwy. 78 at the Kissimmee River. Go upstream toward S-65E, Paradise Run is accessible from C-38 via an old portion of the river entering from the west. From the north you must pass through the S-65E boat lock. Paradise Run is on the right, and signs mark the access sites.



DuPuis Management Area

Recreational activities abound at one of the most popular District properties – the DuPuis Management Area. A landscape of pine flatwoods, wet prairies, marshes and cypress domes provides a scenic backdrop for hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, camping, hunting and other pursuits. DuPuis is far from urban areas, and its dark night sky lends itself to excellent star gazing.

At this site you can explore the visitors' center with interpretive displays, walk the nature trail and butterfly garden; fish from the partially covered pier; take a 15-mile, self-guided auto tour; picnic or enjoy primitive group and family camping. There are 22 miles of hiking trails, including a segment of the Ocean to Lake Trail (part of the Florida National Scenic Trail), and an equestrian campground with 40 miles of horseback riding trails. Special Saturday events or water resource programs are offered. Learn about these by calling (561) 924-5310.

Prior to District acquisition in 1986, the property was a ranch for Dutch white-belted cattle, sheep and goats. By 2001, more than 6,500 acres of wetlands on DuPuis were restored through a three-step program. Land managers plugged old drainage ditches, repaired a levee at the southern boundary to restore former Everglades marsh and reconnected a portion of the flow from the adjacent J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area.

Archeological sites of early American Indians date to 500 B.C. Much later, the Seminole Indians used the DuPuis region as a refuge during the Seminole Indian War of 1835, but living on the land proved difficult. Hundreds of starving Indians were captured and sent to Oklahoma. The area became known as "The Hungryland."



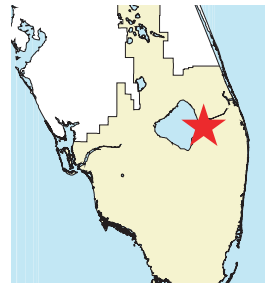
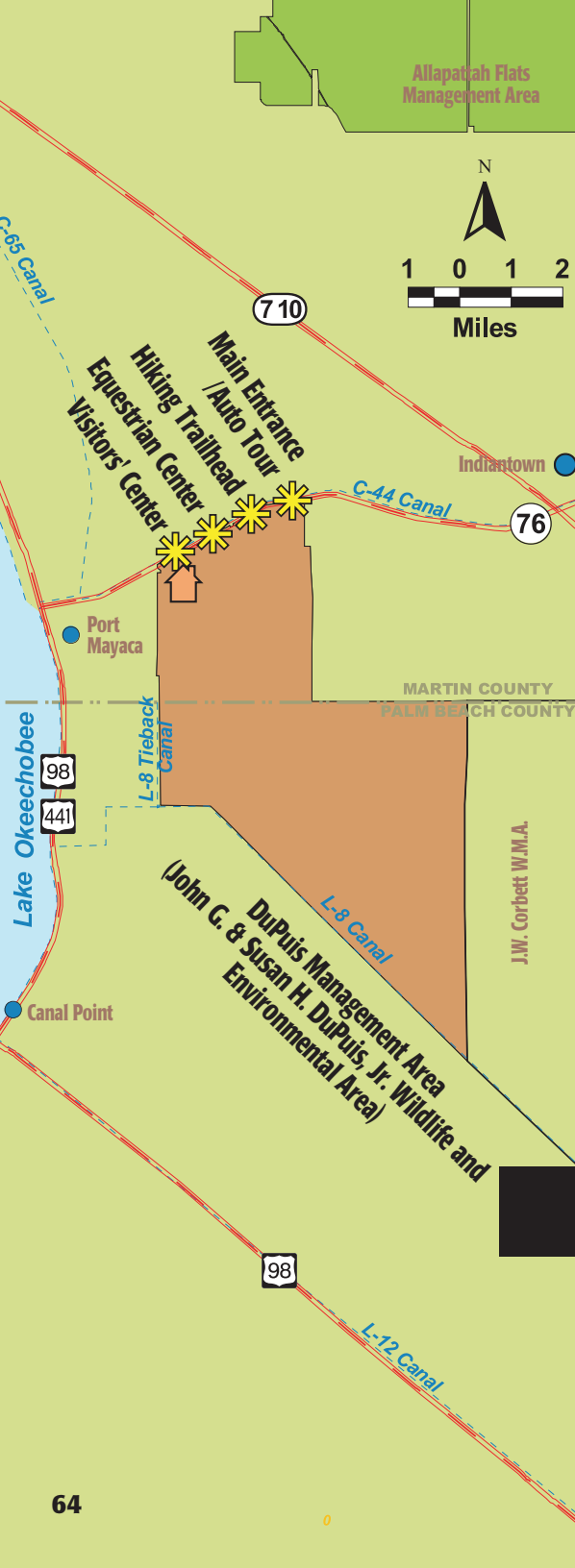
DuPuis Management Area Con't.

For More Information:

Call DuPuis at (561) 924-5310 or
SFWMD headquarters at (561) 686-8800, ext. 6635

How to Get There:

- Four gates provide access on the south side of Hwy. 76: Gate 1, main entrance and auto tour; Gate 2, hiking trail; Gate 3, equestrian paddocks and barns; Gate 5, visitors' center.
- From southeast Florida: Take I-95 north to PGA Blvd. (SR 786). Go west on PGA Blvd. to S.R. 710. Go north for about 15 miles to Kanner Hwy., S.R. 76. Take S.R. 76 seven miles west to DuPuis.
- From Okeechobee, Pahokee and Belle Glade: Take U.S. 441 to Port Mayaca. (Good view of Lake Okeechobee from bridge.) Exit onto S.R. 76 and go three miles east to DuPuis.



DuPuis MANAGEMENT AREA

Martin & Palm Beach
Counties
21,875 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & FWC



Halpatiokee Regional Park; Atlantic Ridge Preserve State Park

Take yourself back in time on a hike along the South Fork St. Lucie River. Take care as you negotiate lush, dense cabbage palm and palmetto hammock to more open scrub. Watch where you step! Baby gopher tortoises, as small as a nickel, have been known to break out on their own near the trail. Listen for laughter and young voices echoing down the river. From time to time, lucky hikers have spotted a "Huck Finn" style homemade raft ushering teenagers away from video games and into the quiet waters of a gently flowing, tannin-colored river. Like steeping tea bags, the cypress trees stain the water a dark brown, but it's clear, so you can see the fish below. Martin County's Halpatiokee Regional Park is your gateway to this memorable and refreshing seven-mile roundtrip outing on the west side of the river. Bring your fishing pole. Also, primitive camping is available at the end of the one-way hike.

For those who want to enjoy the river but want to make an easier time of it, enjoy the picnic tables at the park and short nature trails, some paved, that also have spectacular views of the river. Call the county at (772) 288-5690 for a camping permit and more information about park activities, including inline skating and softball. Canoe and kayak concessions are nearby.

On the east side of the South Fork, the Atlantic Ridge Preserve State Park is scheduled to open soon and provide a number of recreational opportunities. Hiking, bicycling and equestrian use are planned. Pine flatwoods and marshes create an exceptionally diverse landscape. Call Jonathan Dickinson State Park at (772) 546-2771 for more information on the opening, planned activities and directions, or visit www.floridastateparks.org.

How to Get There:

Halpatiokee Regional Park: Take I-95 to Stuart, Hwy. 76 (Kanner Hwy.). Go east for one-half mile to Lost River Road. Take a right on Lost River Road. Go one-half mile to the park entrance.



Martin County
6,158 Acres

Manager: Florida Parks Service, Martin County Parks

John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland Wildlife and Environmental Area; Loxahatchee Slough

You could nickname the Jones/Hungryland WEA a “sportsman’s paradise.” Like to hunt? The FWC manages the area as a “wildlife and environmental area” which means they oversee a number of quota hunts and a small game season during the fall. Hogs are abundant. Decent-sized bucks have been harvested, but it can be a challenge to bag one. Be prepared to wade through up to three feet of water to find a good spot to set up your tree stand.

Like to fish? You’ve come to the right place. An extensive canal network, built during land speculation days, is a haven for pan fish. There also are a few old “borrow pits” that hold some large bass. You can savor a “cracker” style meal just talking about it. But that’s not how the area got its name. The Seminole Indians used the region as a refuge during the Seminole Indian War of 1835, but living off the land quickly proved difficult. Hundreds of starving Indians were captured and sent to Oklahoma. The area became known as “The Hungryland.”

The more passive outdoor enthusiast can take advantage of several miles of established, multi-use trails for hiking, bicycling and horseback riding. Some are wet, so be prepared. Trail use is best during the drier, winter months. In addition, the canal levees provide great hiking, bicycling and horseback riding opportunities. The area is great for observing wildlife. Alligators, otters, bobcats, deer, hogs, and several species of wading birds and hawks are commonly seen.

The Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area, which is about seven miles south of the Hungryland, is part of the headwaters of the Loxahatchee River. A portion of the 72-mile Ocean to Lake Trail comes through here. Contrasts along the trail add interest to a long walk through pine flatwoods and vast areas of restored wetlands and uplands. In spots, trails on higher ground, snug with thick, tall vegetation, abruptly open into wide-angle vistas of marsh. Palm Beach County manages the Loxahatchee Slough.



John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland Wildlife and Environmental Area; Loxahatchee Slough Con't.

For More Information:

For Loxahatchee Slough, call the county Department of Environmental Resources Management at (561) 233-2400.

For Jones/Hungryland, call (561) 625-5122.

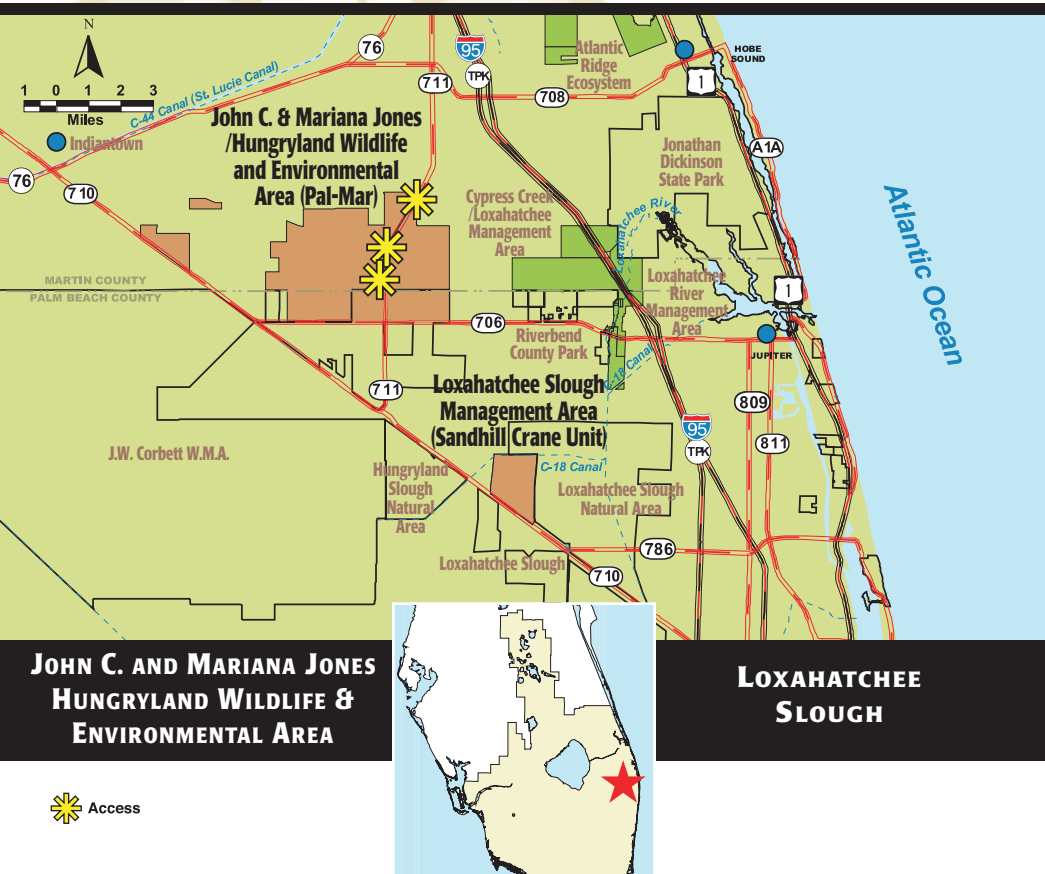
How to Get There:

Jones/Hungryland WEA: From West Palm Beach, take S.R. 710 (the Bee Line Hwy.) north to C.R. 711 (Pratt-Whitney Road). Go north on C.R. 711. Proceed through the intersection at S.R. 706, Indiantown Road. The main gate is on the west side of C.R. 711, one and one-half miles north of S.R. 706. A brochure box is located inside the gate with information about the area.

From Jupiter, take S.R. 706, Indiantown Road, west for about nine miles from I-95 to C.R. 711. Head north on C.R. 711 for one to two miles.

Loxahatchee Slough: From West Palm Beach, take S.R. 710 (the Bee Line Hwy.) north to the intersection with PGA Blvd. (S.R. 786). Access will be on your right.

“FYI...” In addition to the FWC-managed John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland Wildlife and Environmental Area in Martin County, Palm Beach County owns and manages the Hungryland Slough Natural Area on the south side of S.R. 710 (Bee Line Hwy.), immediately east of the J. W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area. Additional natural areas in the vicinity are the Sweetbay Natural Area, Palm Beach County (561) 233-2400; and the Grassy Waters Preserve, which has a popular nature center, City of West Palm Beach (561) 627-8831.



Martin County & Palm Beach Counties
19,075 Acres

Manager: SFWMD, FWC and Palm Beach County

Miller/Wild Property

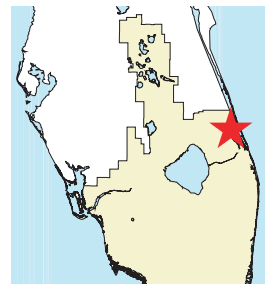
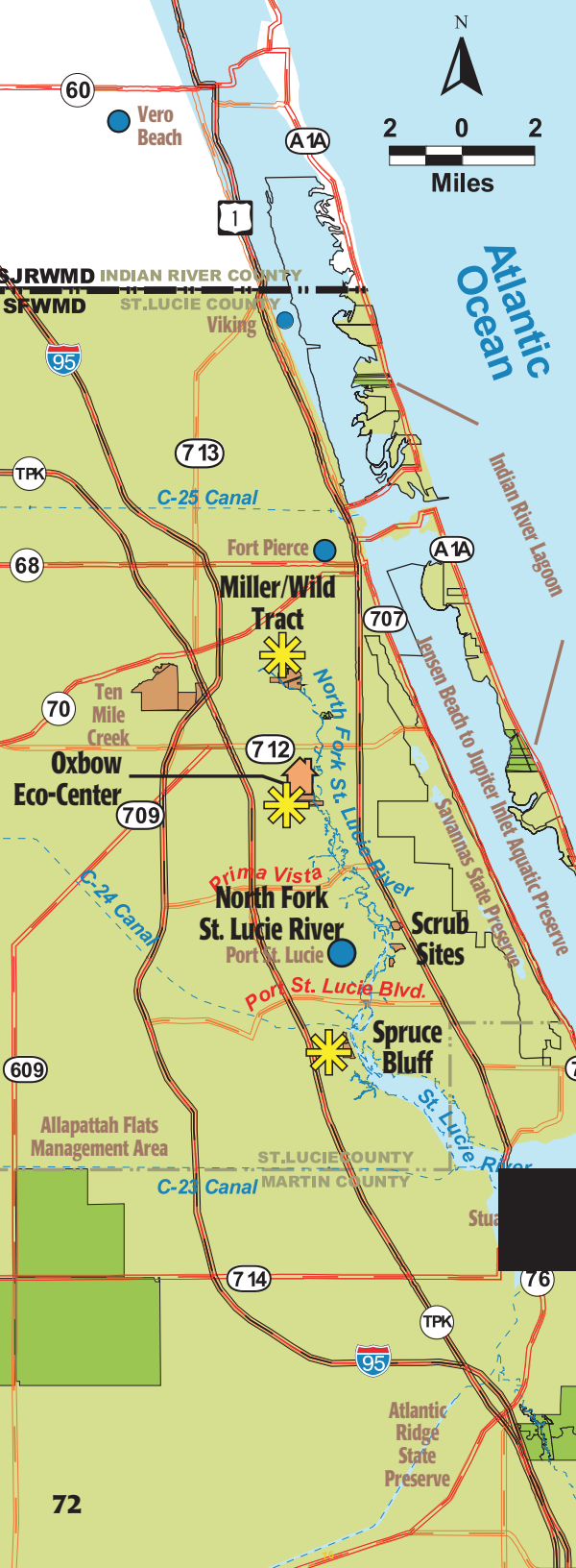
Stand still and listen to the breezes playing their tunes in the tall pine trees. There are plenty of trees here in this classic pine flatwoods, which was used for cattle grazing many years ago. Hike two miles through the property and along the perimeter. Don't miss an outstanding feature on this site. A loop trail with boardwalks leads to a rich hammock of live oak, cabbage palm, water hickory, bay trees and red maple. The hammock lines Ten Mile Creek. Nestled beside the creek is a canoe stopover and small observation platform. If you're wondering about launching there, it's a bit of a hike from the Miller/Wild parking lot to the stopover. Instead, put in at a nearby boat ramp located at White City Park, approximately three miles south of the stopover.

For More Information:

Call the Florida Park Service at (772) 340-7530.

How to Get There:

From I-95: Exit at Midway Road in Fort Pierce. Travel East on Midway Road a few miles until you reach Selvitz Road. Turn left onto Selvitz Road, heading north. Selvitz Road ends at Edwards Road. Turn right onto Edwards Road, traveling east. Look for a small road on the right hand side called Lewis Street. Turn right onto Lewis Street and continue directly to the parking area.



Miller/Wild Property

St. Lucie County

1,665 Acres

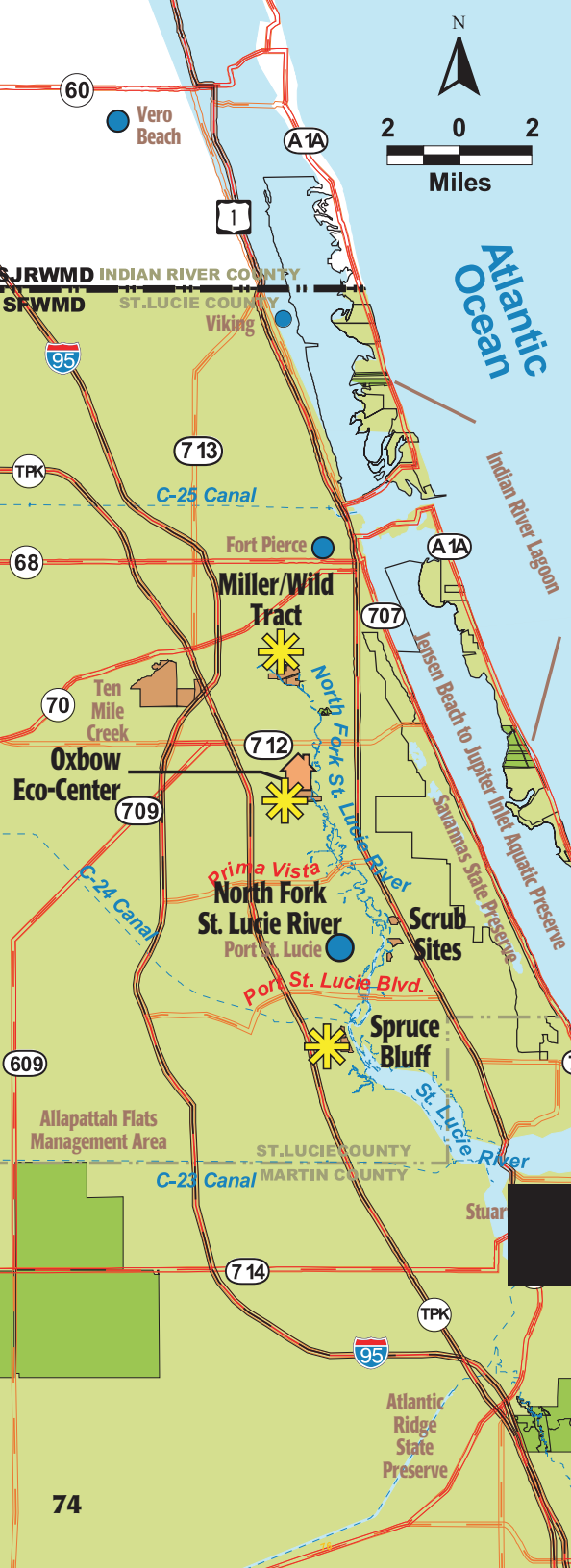
Manager: St. Lucie County
& Florida Parks Service



Access



Environmental/
Education Center



North Fork St. Lucie River

St. Lucie County
1,665 Acres

Manager: St. Lucie County
& Florida Parks Service



North Fork St. Lucie River

Situated on a picturesque preserve on the North Fork of the St. Lucie River, the Oxbow Eco-Center offers a rare glimpse of "the real Florida." Here is a place where geologic history and the present come alive in the canopy of the floodplain forest, the sandy soils of the scrub and pine flatwoods, and the primordial swamps and tranquil wetlands.

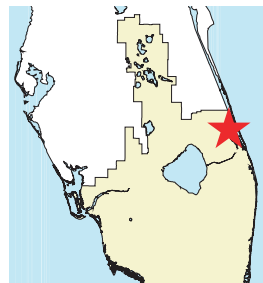
The District and St. Lucie County purchased the land, and the county manages the property and nature center. Three miles of boardwalks and trails and observation towers allow you to fully experience nature without disrupting it. The center was constructed using "green building technologies" and is a model for sustainability. Passive light design, solar panels, and recycled and recyclable materials were used in the construction. A cistern system captures rainfall to flush the toilets, and the floors are made from salvaged pine trees lost in the St. Johns River in the early logging days. A special interpretive trail for the visually impaired wraps around the education center. Don't miss the well-stocked gift shop.

For More Information:

Call (772) 785-5833 or visit www.stlucieco.gov/erd/oxbow for hours, trail conditions, guided hikes and special programs for the public and students.

How to Get There:

The nature center is located off St. James Drive. From I-95, take Midway Road/C.R. 712 (exit 126) east. Go 3.6 miles to light at S. 25th Street/St. James Drive (Note: Hanging street sign says S. 25th Street, smaller sign says St. James Drive with arrow). Go 1.7 miles and Oxbow Eco-Center will be on left across from Publix shopping center. The center is 1.7 miles north of Airoso Blvd. if accessing St. James from the south. The center is at 5400 N.E. St. James Drive, Port St. Lucie, FL 34983.



Riverbend Park, Cypress Creek, Loxahatchee River

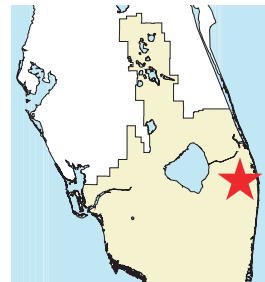
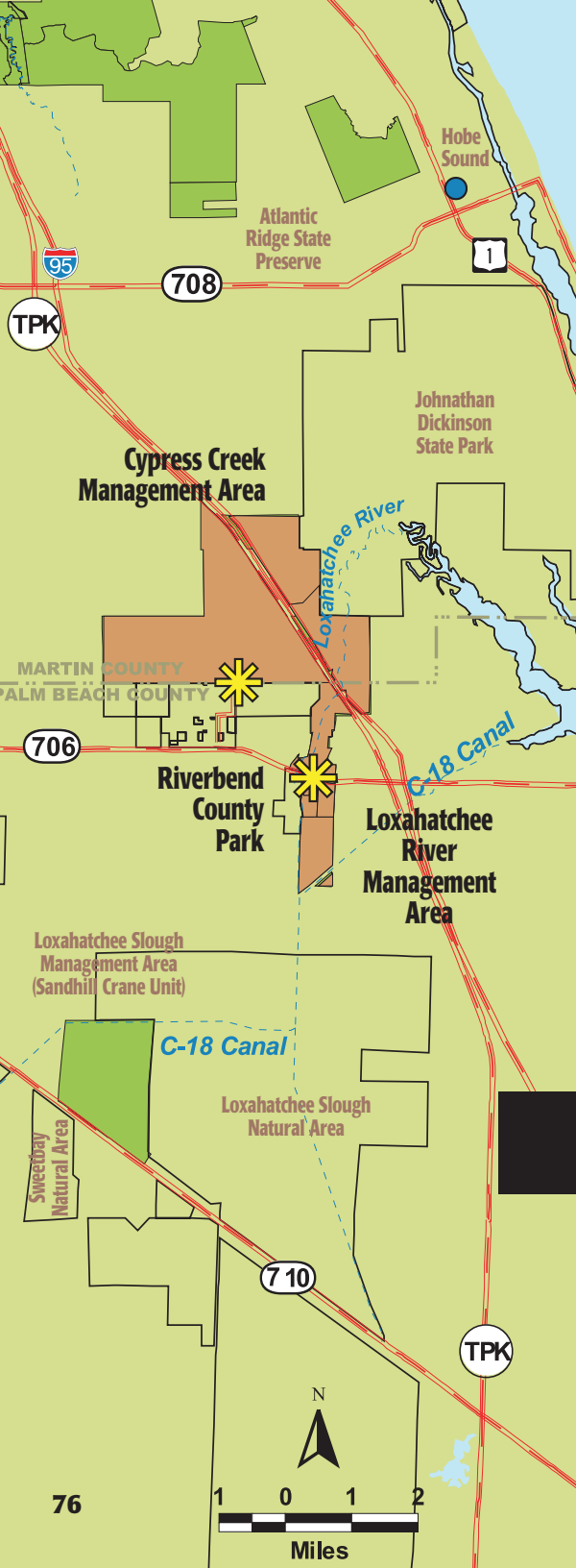
Florida's only federally-designated Wild and Scenic River, the seven-mile Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee, begins its journey at Riverbend Park. You can rent a canoe or kayak at the park and explore the serene, cypress-soaked waters of the tannin-stained river through Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Canoeists and landlubbers alike can investigate a restored slough at Riverbend. Park managers discovered the slough when they removed a thick growth of exotic plants. The slough was part of the headwaters of the river long before a nearby major drainage canal diverted flow. The restored slough and other public-owned lands to the west and south help ensure a more natural water regime, greatly benefiting the river.

A two-mile segment of the Ocean to Lake Trail goes through Riverbend. Look for trail signs. Take advantage of the numerous nature trails as well. When the new park is fully open, you'll be able to see several exhibits that celebrate the Seminole Indian heritage. Bicycling, fishing and picnicking will also be available. Call the Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department at (561) 966-6600 for more information.

Additional recreational opportunities will be provided at Cypress Creek in future years. Management planning is under way by Palm Beach County and state parks.

How to Get There:

Riverbend Park: Take I-95 or Florida's Turnpike to Indiantown Road in Jupiter. Go west on Indiantown for one mile. Turn left into the entrance of Riverbend.

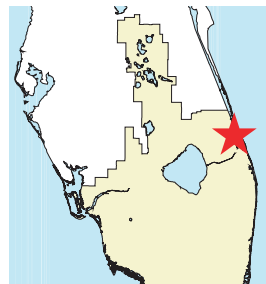
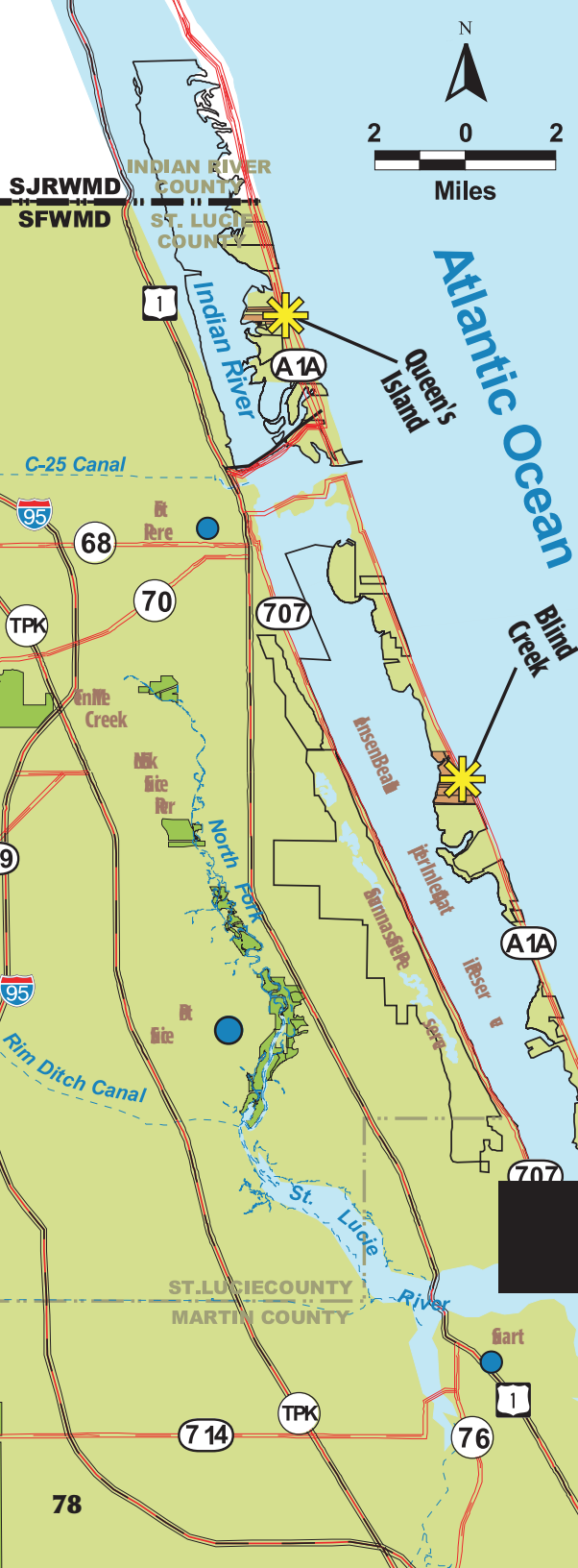


Riverbend Park

Martin & Palm Beach
Counties
5,383 Acres
Manager: SFWMD &
Florida Parks Service,
Palm Beach County



Access



Queen's Island and Blind Creek

St. Lucie County
606 Acres
Manager: St. Lucie
County Parks



Queen's Island and Blind Creek

St. Lucie manages these two coastal properties, each of which are about 400 acres in size. Queen's Island, on the west side of the barrier island, provides a rustic setting for canoeing around small islands in the Indian River Lagoon. The county has extensively restored the land to reveal old-growth maritime hammocks with large gumbo limbos and other native trees. Wind your way through on a nature trail and three miles of impoundment levees, from which you can fish. The property is scheduled to open in 2005.

About 10 miles to the south, Blind Creek is a popular area for surf fishing and beach combing. An unimproved boat ramp provides access to the Indian River lagoon. The site occupies several natural communities, from coastal dune, coastal strand, maritime hammock and tidal swamp. Future improvements include a short interpretive trail on the west side of A1A, a fishing pier into the Indian River Lagoon and an observation deck. Two and one-half miles of impoundment dikes are ideal for hiking.

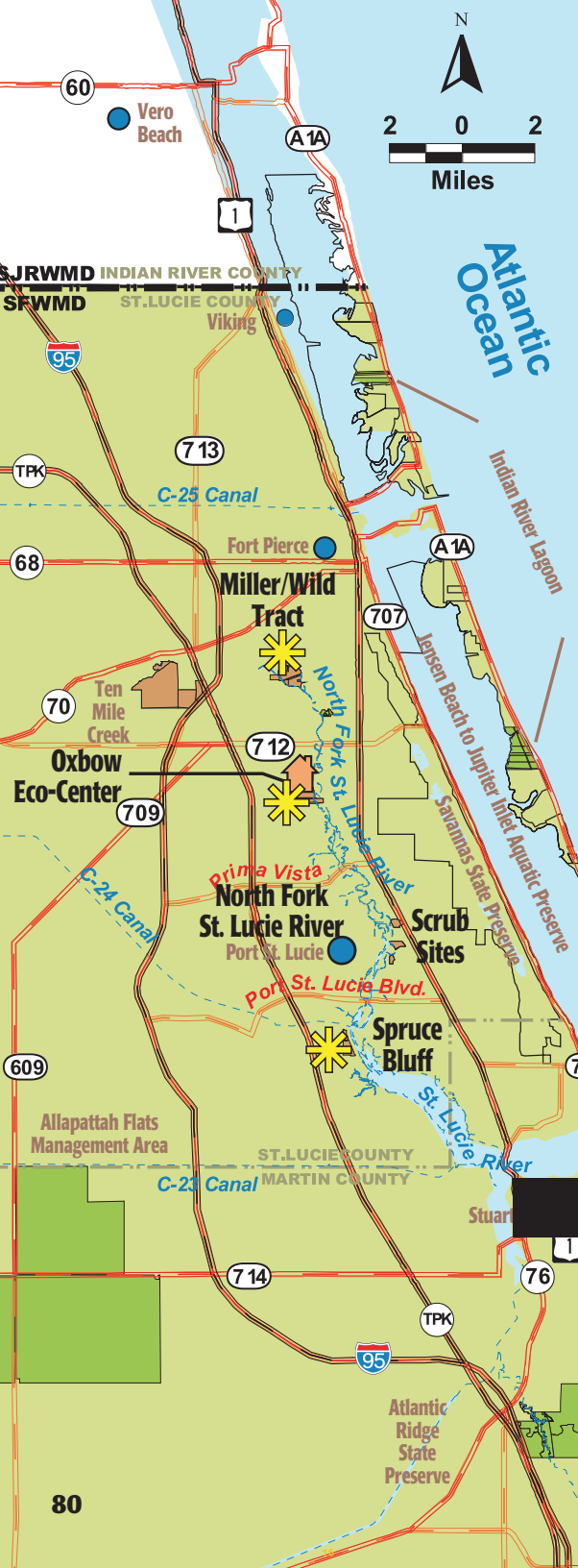
For More Information:

Call (772) 462-2526 for reservations.

How to Get There:

Queen's Island: The site is located on North Hutchinson Island, north of the Ft. Pierce Inlet. Access and parking is off A1A, approximately 2 1/2 miles north of the North Bridge Causeway (A1A) and Atlantic Beach Blvd (A1A).

Blind Creek: Access and parking are off A1A. The site is located on South Hutchinson Island, north of Jensen Beach. The property lies two miles north of the Hutchinson Island nuclear power plant on A1A.



Spruce Bluff

St. Lucie County
1,665 Acres
Manager: St. Lucie County
& Florida Parks Service



Spruce Bluff

Farther inland, a true jewel found within a growing urban landscape is the 100-acre Spruce Bluff property. Rich in both historical value and habitat diversity, the land is extraordinary. If you had visited Spruce Bluff in the year 1650, you may have smelled smoke from the wax myrtle and mangrove leaves being burned by the Ais Indians to keep mosquitoes away. Or you might have seen the fronds of the saw palmetto used as plates. Still, you might have been offered leaves of the red bay tree for your headache.

More recently, some 100 years ago, you might have come across a pineapple orchard or a sawmill. These were among the businesses of the pioneer settlers who named Spruce Bluff, perhaps after spruce trees which sand pines somewhat resemble.

Today, an interpretive trail yields a treat for nature lovers and history buffs, alike. Undisturbed natural communities, from scrub to marsh, await your exploration. And an ancient burial or ceremonial Indian mound is still mostly intact.

Boardwalks allow easy access to the marshes which usually offer a visual display of wading birds, including the endangered woodstork, feeding in the shallow waters. Be prepared for an aromatherapy session, of sorts, as you hike through the scrub with its characteristic, crisp "scrubby" scent. In between, discover the crunch of fallen pine needles and dried saw palmetto fronds in the mesic flatwoods community.

For More Information:

St. Lucie County conducts guided walks November through May. Limit 15. Call (772) 462-2526 for reservations. Visit www.co.st-lucie.fl.us/erd/programs/index.htm in the fall for the schedule.

How to Get There:

From I-95: Take exit 63A onto Gatlin Blvd. and go east to Floresta Drive. Take a right (south) onto Floresta and go .6 miles. Take a left onto Southbend Blvd. and go .3 miles. After the bridge, take a left on Peru St. Dar Lane will be on your left.

Ten Mile Creek Recreation Area

If you're looking for something different to do, come to the Ten Mile Creek Recreation Area. Frisbee golf is slated to be among the recreational opportunities at the county-managed park scheduled to open in 2005. More traditional amenities include picnic pavilions, nature trails, and hiking and horseback trails. A deep, reclaimed borrow pit with an observation deck will make a good place to fish and canoe.

The park is adjacent to a major water preserve area designed to store water inland to reduce the impact of flood control on the coastal estuary. A trailhead for the water preserve will be located at the park. Five miles of trails will be available at the preserve for hiking, nature study and possible equestrian use.

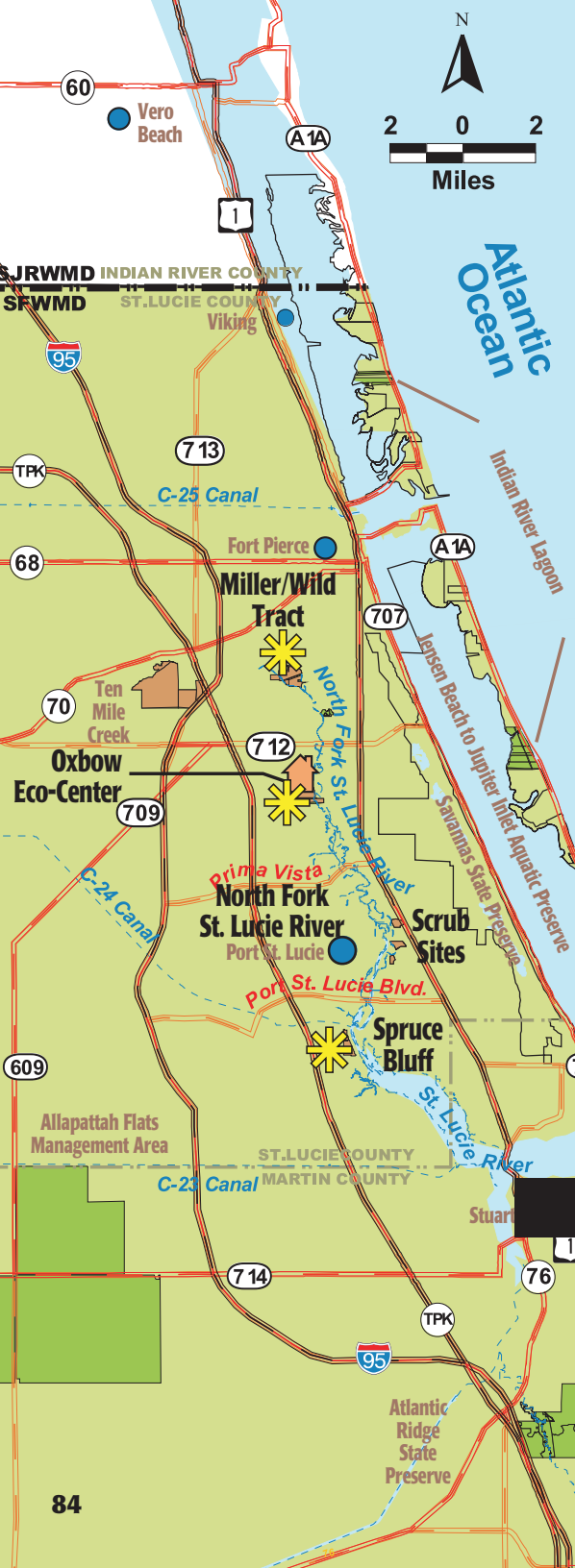
For More Information:

Call St. Lucie County parks (Environmental Resources) at (772) 462-2525 or visit their web site at www.stlucieco.gov/erd.

How to Get There:

Ten Mile Creek is located near Ft. Pierce: From Exit 65 on I-95, go west on Okeechobee Road approximately one mile. Gordy Road will be the first left past Kings Highway. The parking lot will be on your left about one mile down Gordy Road.





THREE SCRUB SITES

St. Lucie County
82 Acres
Manager: State Parks



Three Scrub Sites

Three small properties located within and adjacent to the floodplain of the North Fork St. Lucie River are dense scrub sites where scrub oak and sand pine push out of the stark white sugar sands. Hike among the fire breaks. Also of interest is a canoe stopover immediately adjacent to and north of the U.S. 1 property at the Halpatiokee Nature Trail.

For More Information:

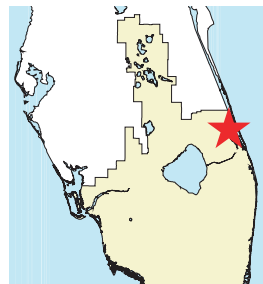
Call the Florida Park Service at (772) 340-7530.

How to Get There:

U.S. 1 Parcel: The parcel is located on the west side of U.S. 1 in the City of Port St. Lucie approximately one-half mile north of Walton/Midport Road.

Midport Road Parcel: Located within the city limits of Port St. Lucie. From U.S. 1, go southwest on Midport Road. The parcel is located on the west side of Midport Road.

Lyngate Park Parcel: Located within the city limits of Port St. Lucie. From U.S. 1, go southwest on Midport Road to Lyngate Drive (Lyngate Park) on the west side of the road. This parcel is located directly behind the city park.



Allapattah Flats

Allapattah comes from the Seminole Indian word for alligator. But don't let the land's namesake keep you from visiting this predominantly wet flatwoods expanse. By now you probably envision the property as a swampy, no-man's land teeming with alligators. But to the contrary, the land is inviting. Public use plans are still under development, but when the area is officially open you'll be able to hike and bike along a 1.5-mile long "user-friendly" shellrock road leading to a panoramic open vista of marsh that wading birds frequent. You might see an alligator or two, but they are not here in great numbers.

On your way, you'll notice lots of open pasture that once was wet flatwoods until it was drained decades ago for cattle grazing. These open areas are targeted for extensive restoration by filling in the old drainage ditches to bring back the wetland vegetation and by replanting thousands of pines.

You can also enjoy the land on separate trails by horseback. In addition, the area is open for hunting at certain times of the year.

Whatever way you choose to explore, be sure to bring a picnic lunch and take a relaxing break.

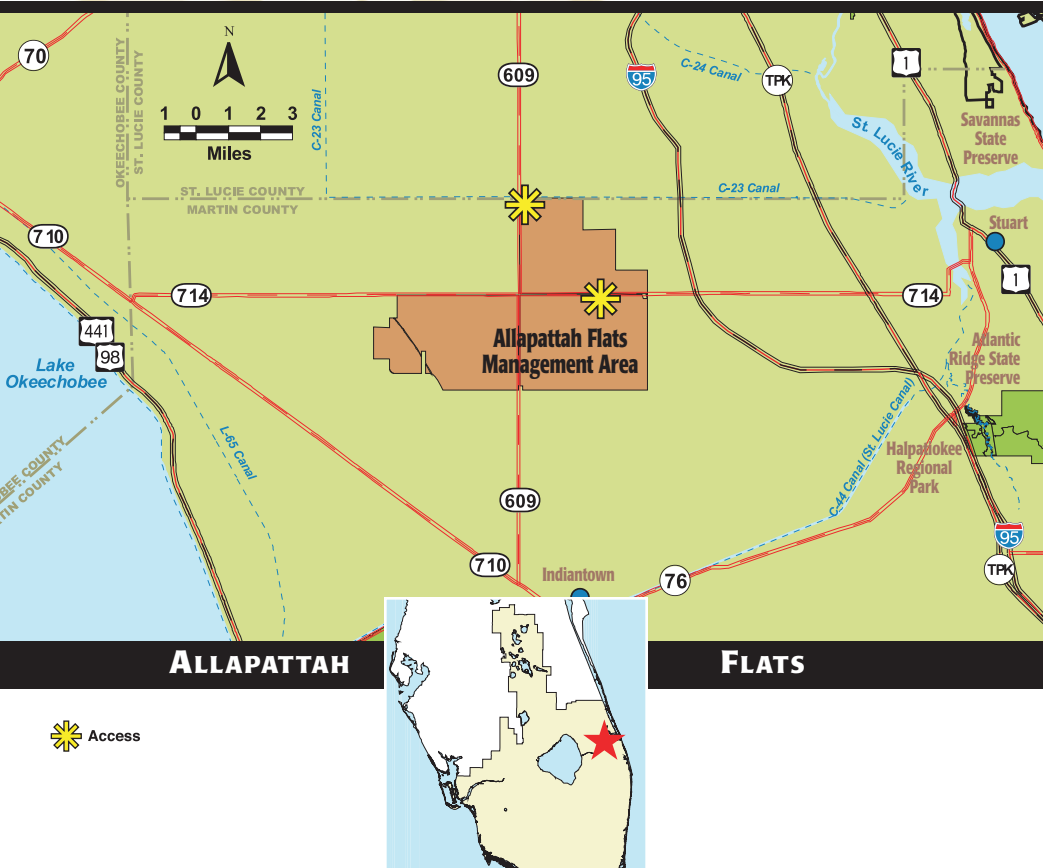
For More Information:

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
(561) 625-5122
SFWMD headquarters (561) 686-8800

How to Get There:

From West Palm Beach: Take S.R. 710 (the Beeline) north through Indiantown. About one mile north of Indiantown take a right at C.R. 609. Go six miles to C.R. 714. Take a right on C.R. 714 and the entrance with the gated shellrock road will be on your left in a little over a mile. Or, stay on C.R. 609 going north. Go through the intersection at C.R. 714 for about two miles and the north entrance will be on your right.

From Stuart: Take C.R. 714 west for about 15 miles. The gated shellrock road entrance will be on your right.



Martin County
20,946 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & FWC

Overview: Water Conservation Areas

"There are no other Everglades in the World. They are, they always have been, never wholly known. Nothing anywhere else is like them; their vast glittering openness, wider than the enormous visible round of the horizon, the racing free saltiness and sweetness of their massive winds, under the dazzling blue heights of space. They are unique also in the simplicity, the forms of life they enclose...It is a river of grass."-- Marjory Stoneman Douglas, in *The Everglades: River of Grass*

Three Water Conservation Areas, together with Everglades National Park, represent the remaining 50 percent of the original Everglades wetland. The other half, which historically extended to the coastal ridge generally where I-95 is now, is developed. A levee separates the conservation areas and the developed east coast, and major drainage canals separate the three conservation areas. These water works are all part of the original Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project built between the 1950s and 1970s to reduce damage from floods. The role of the conservation areas is to store excess stormwater and recharge groundwater supplies. A massive effort to fine-tune the flood control project and clean up water that reaches these areas is under way through the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan designed to enhance and preserve these remaining Everglades and the greater Everglades ecosystem.

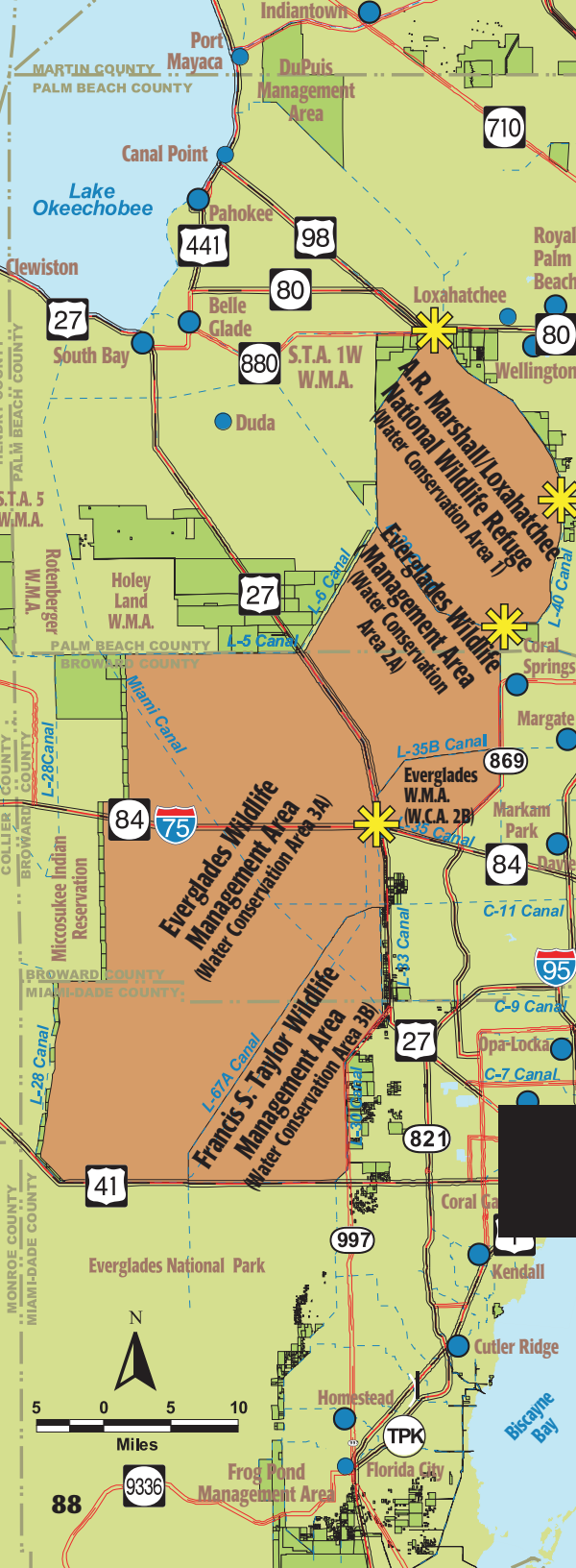
The conservation areas comprise 800,000 acres of primarily signature sawgrass Everglades habitat. Areas of higher elevation result in tree islands that dot the Everglades landscape.

OVERVIEW: WATER CONSERVATION AREAS

Palm Beach, Broward &
Miami-Dade Counties
810,736 Acres
Manager: SFWMD, FWC &
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Access



Water Conservation Area 1

Water Conservation Area 1 is the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. The South Florida Water Management District owns the conservation area and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages it as a refuge.

The refuge and its visitors' center, with a butterfly garden, displays and a lecture room, attract more than 300,000 people annually. Take a short, shady stroll through a cypress dome from the loop boardwalk that leads out from the center. Accessible by car and only a short distance from the visitors' center is another popular part of the refuge—the 276-acre marsh system on the east side of the main Everglades levee. Ten miles of walking trails let you observe wading birds and butterflies and learn about Everglades restoration. On-the-ground experiments are taking place in a portion of the marsh system to test various water flow regimes for large-scale Everglades enhancement. A helpful information kiosk explains the experiments.

The 147,392-acre main expanse of the refuge lies west of the levee and is accessible by boat. A canoe trail leads into the ridge and slough landscape, giving a close up view of small tree islands and a sense of what early explorers might have seen as they traveled for days across the Everglades. A concessionaire provides canoes, and bicyclists may ride 12 miles from this area to the south end of the refuge along the main levee.

The area is home to the endangered Everglades kite and wood stork and other wildlife, including alligators, bobcats, red-bellied turtles and river otters.

For More Information:

The refuge hosts "Everglades Day," a major annual environmental festival held in February. Call (561) 732-3684 for more information about refuge hours and programs.



Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Water Conservation Area 1

Palm Beach County
138,905 Acres
Manager: SFWMD &
U.S. Fish & Wildlife
Services



Access

Water Conservation Area 1 Con't.

How to Get There:

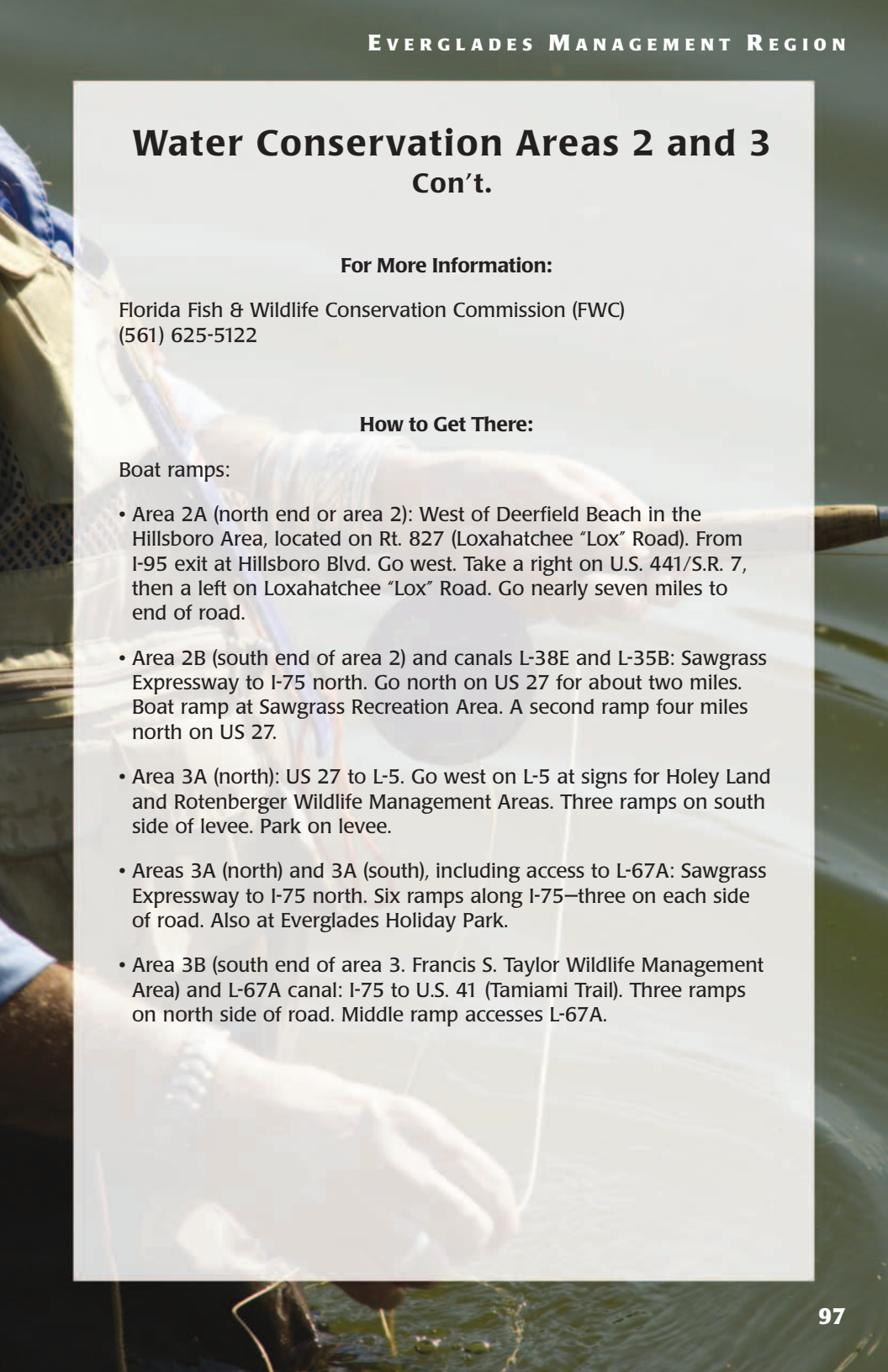
- Headquarters entrance off Lee Road: Take I-95 or the Florida Turnpike to Boynton Beach Blvd. Go west to U.S. 441/State Road 7. Go south on U.S. 441/State Road 7 for approximately two miles to Lee Road. Take a right on Lee Road and proceed a short distance to the headquarters entrance gate.
- 20-Mile Bend entrance (north boat ramp): West of Wellington. From I-95, take Southern Blvd. west to S.R. 880. Go left. Take an immediate left just after the green bridge onto 20-mile Bend Road. Go right onto 20-mile Bend Boat Ramp Road. Follow road to automatic gate (open sunrise to sunset).
- Hillsboro entrance (south boat ramp/bicycle trail): West of Deerfield Beach in the Hillsboro Area, located on Rt. 827 (Loxahatchee "Lox" Road). From I-95, exit at Hillsboro Blvd. Go west. Take a right on U.S. 441/State Road 7, then a left on Loxahatchee "Lox" Road. Go nearly seven miles to end of road.

Water Conservation Areas 2 and 3

Water Conservation Areas 2 and 3 are mainly signature Everglades sawgrass marsh, interspersed with tree islands. Ownership is mixed, with State, South Florida Water Management District and private ownership. The State leases portions of its land to the Micosukee Indian Tribe. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission manages the areas and conducts hunts for waterfowl, deer and small game. You can access adjacent rim canals by boat, the interior marshes by airboat, and the levees by bicycle and hiking. Note that low water during the dry, winter season can hamper airboat access. Many boat ramps ring the areas for your use.

Scientists with the District monitor water quality in the areas and treat exotic vegetation to keep it under maintenance control. Other scientists conduct research on how to restore the Everglades ecosystems and protect endangered species and other wildlife. Because the conservation areas are cordoned off with water control levees and canals which have affected the health of the Everglades, studies are under way to determine how to restore natural flow through these wetland expanses. Long-term plans contemplate removal of certain levees to encourage a more natural water flow pattern throughout the Everglades.

Some 75 private hunt camps dot the landscape, and many are under 20-year leases with the underlying land owner. Owners of the camps reach them mostly by airboat. Some of the camps are built on stilts over the open water areas and others are situated on tree islands.



EVERGLADES MANAGEMENT REGION

Water Conservation Areas 2 and 3 Con't.

For More Information:

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
(561) 625-5122

How to Get There:

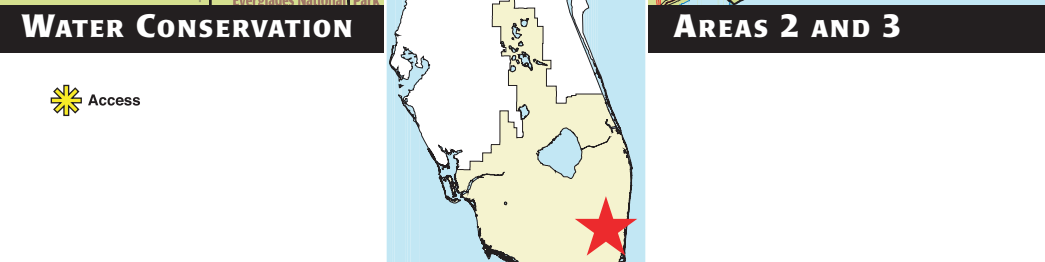
Boat ramps:

- Area 2A (north end or area 2): West of Deerfield Beach in the Hillsboro Area, located on Rt. 827 (Loxahatchee "Lox" Road). From I-95 exit at Hillsboro Blvd. Go west. Take a right on U.S. 441/S.R. 7, then a left on Loxahatchee "Lox" Road. Go nearly seven miles to end of road.
- Area 2B (south end of area 2) and canals L-38E and L-35B: Sawgrass Expressway to I-75 north. Go north on US 27 for about two miles. Boat ramp at Sawgrass Recreation Area. A second ramp four miles north on US 27.
- Area 3A (north): US 27 to L-5. Go west on L-5 at signs for Holey Land and Rotenberger Wildlife Management Areas. Three ramps on south side of levee. Park on levee.
- Areas 3A (north) and 3A (south), including access to L-67A: Sawgrass Expressway to I-75 north. Six ramps along I-75—three on each side of road. Also at Everglades Holiday Park.
- Area 3B (south end of area 3. Francis S. Taylor Wildlife Management Area) and L-67A canal: I-75 to U.S. 41 (Tamiami Trail). Three ramps on north side of road. Middle ramp accesses L-67A.

97

How to Get There:

- Area 2A (north end or area 2): West of Deerfield Beach in the Hillsboro Area, located on Rt. 827 (Loxahatchee “Lox” Road). From I-95 exit at Hillsboro Blvd. Go west. Take a right on U.S. 441/S.R. 7, then a left on Loxahatchee “Lox” Road. Go nearly seven miles to end of road.
- Area 2B (south end of area 2) and canals L-38E and L-35B: Sawgrass Expressway to I-75 north. Go north on US 27 for about two miles. Boat ramp at Sawgrass Recreation Area. A second ramp four miles north on US 27.
- Area 3A (north): US 27 to L-5. Go west on L-5 at signs for Holey Land and Rotenberger Wildlife Management Areas. Three ramps on south side of levee. Park on levee.
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- Area 3B (south end of area 3. Francis S. Taylor Wildlife Management Area) and L-67A canal: I-75 to U.S. 41 (Tamiami Trail). Three ramps on north side of road. Middle ramp accesses L-67A.



Everglades Buffer Strip

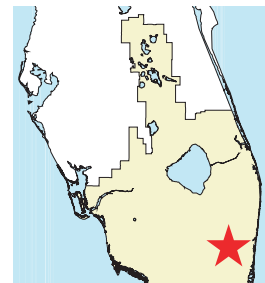
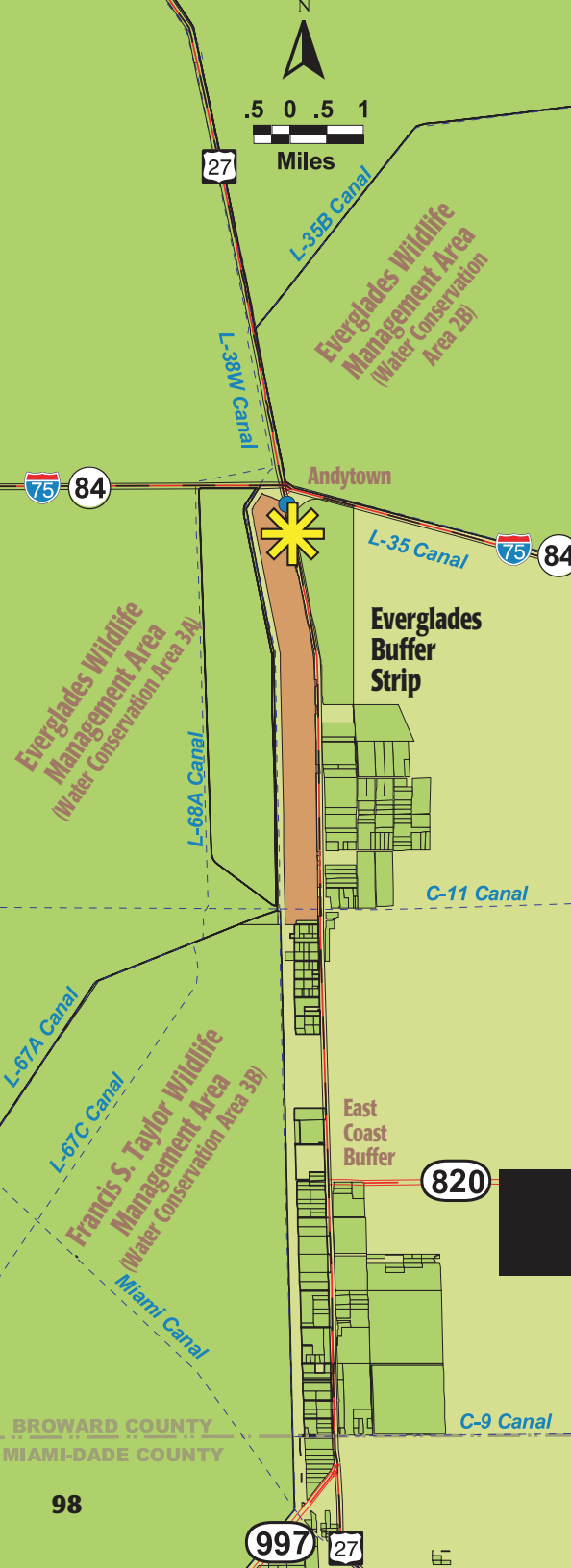
Former rock pits provide good fishing holes in the Everglades Buffer Strip. As its name implies, the property provides a buffer between the Everglades and the expanding urban area by collecting seepage from Everglades Water Conservation Area 3.

For More Information:

SFWMD headquarters at (561) 686-8800, ext. 6635 or
FL WATS 1-800-432-2045

How to Get There:

The entrance is one mile south of I-75 along U.S. 27 in Broward County.



Everglades Buffer Strip

Broward County
1,713 Acres
Manager: SFWMD



Access

Southern Glades/Frog Pond Areas

Dotted with tropical hardwood hammocks and cypress forests within a 32,000-acre expanse of Everglades wetlands and muhly grass prairies, the Southern Glades Wildlife and Environmental Area beckons with easily accessible fishing platforms by road and boat, and several miles of hiking and bicycling trails. One platform is ADA-friendly and is covered.

Adjacent to Southern Glades is the 10,500-acre Frog Pond Wildlife Management Area which includes lands leased to farmers, restored acreage and a millet field for dove hunts.

On your way in from Aerojet Road (SW 232 Ave.), you'll see where land managers peeled away dense layers of exotic vegetation to reveal a special tropical hammock that supports an array of birdlife. Nearly 160 species of birds are documented at "Lucky Hammock." It's within sight of Ingraham Hwy. and is a popular birding destination. Land managers have replanted this and other sites along Aerojet Road with dozens of species of native plants. This makes for patches of rich, biological diversity in a region that is highly disturbed from farming and exotic plants. Butterflies abound here, too. Lucky Hammock got its name by being one of the last hammocks in the area that was spared.

For bicycling, hiking and horseback riding, consider the 13-mile shellrock "South Dade Greenways Trail" on the C-111 canal. For hiking and bicycling, use the three-mile paved Aerojet Road (SW 232 Ave.) off Ingraham Highway and the 2.5-mile shellrock levee road on the east side of L-31W (park at Glenn Garrett Park and go east over the bridge to the levee). There are large plantings of butterfly-attracting plants along the east side of L-31W. You can picnic at Glenn Garrett.

The Southern Glades area supports 24 plant and animal species listed as either threatened or endangered, according to state and federal listings. It is a critical habitat for two federally endangered species: the Cape Sable seaside sparrow and the American crocodile.

Southern Glades/Frog Pond Areas Con't.

For More Information:

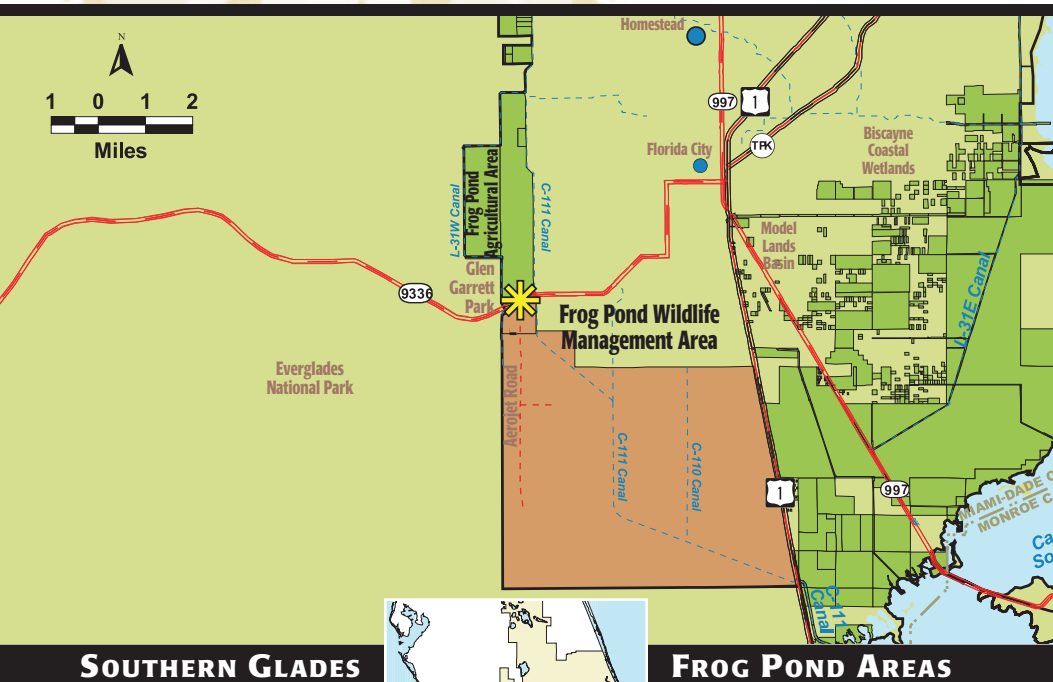
SFWMD headquarters at (561) 686-8800, ext. 6635 and
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
(954) 746-1789

How to Get There:

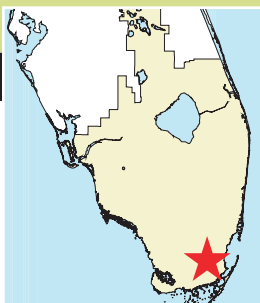
Follow State Road 9336 (Ingraham Hwy.) toward Everglades National Park from the Florida Turnpike or U.S. 1 in Florida City.

Going from east to west, there are three access points from Ingraham Highway (entrance road into Everglades National Park): The C-111 canal; Aerojet Road (SW 232 Ave.); and Glenn Garrett Park at the L-31W canal. You can also park at the C-111 canal on the west side; along Aerojet Road (SW 232 Ave.) or at the fishing platforms; and at Glenn Garrett Park on the west side of L-31W.

All access points are within one mile, and Everglades National Park is one mile west of Glenn Garrett Park.



Access



Miami-Dade County
33,938 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & FWC

Stormwater Treatment Areas 1W and 5

The stormwater treatment areas are man-made wetlands designed to clean up nutrients primarily from surrounding agricultural areas before the runoff reaches the Everglades. Levees and canals ring the perimeter of the treatment areas. The treatment areas are divided into several cells. Some have open water with submerged aquatic vegetation, and others have very dense cattail growth. The variety provides for varying degrees of water quality treatment to maximize the cleanup.

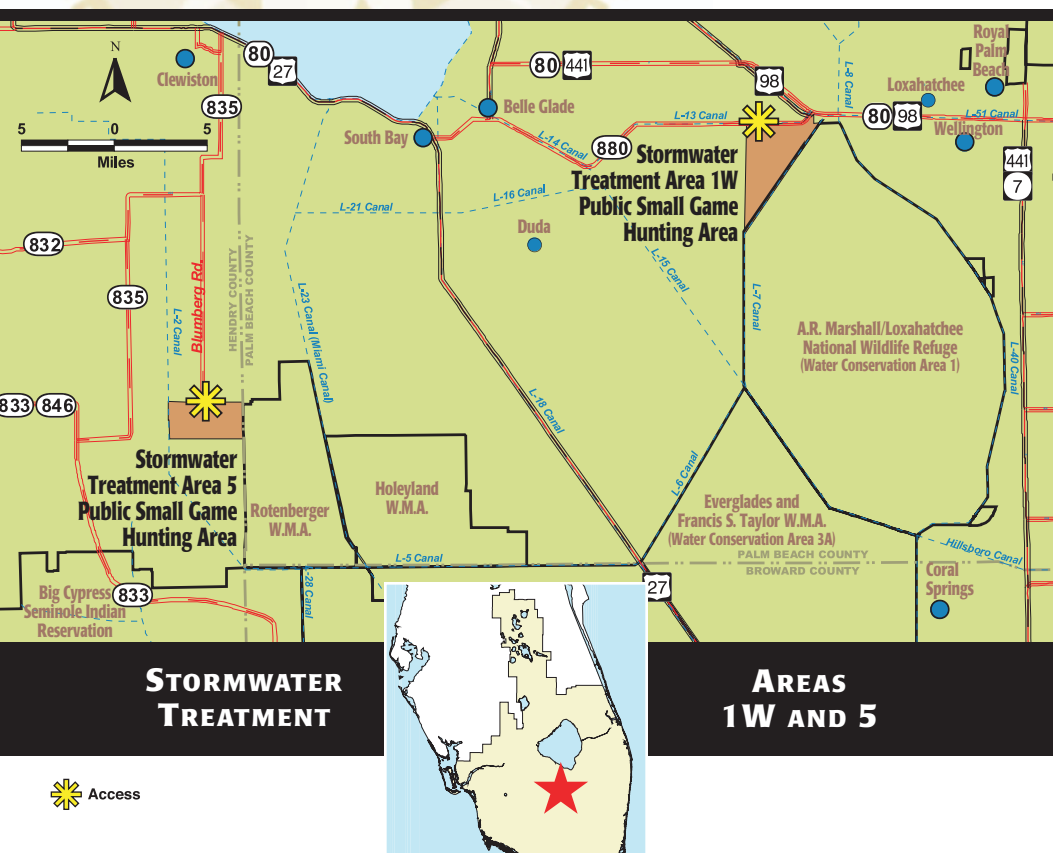
A comprehensive recreational use plan is under development for all of the STAs. Among the uses that may be allowed following the completion of STA construction are hiking and bicycling. In the meantime, areas 1W and 5 are being used for organized birding trips and waterfowl hunts. Birds prefer the open water cells. These cells attract migratory species and waterfowl. Join in on a birding trip by calling for reservations.

For More Information:

SFWMD headquarters at (561) 686-8800, ext. 6635 or
FL WATS 1-800-432-2045

How to Get There:

Go to www.sfwmd.gov for the dates and information on how to register. Directions to the sites are available when you register. FWC organizes the waterfowl hunts. Call them at (561) 625-5122 for more information. The scheduled birding trips and hunts facilitate access to these particular STAs.



Hendry & Palm Beach Counties
12,848 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & FWC

Corkscrew Marsh

We roll out the green carpet for you at Corkscrew. Grass-carpeted hiking trails through "hallways" of wildflower-infused shrubbery are easy to stroll. Five miles of trails consist of three interconnected trails marked with numbered posts—the Pine Flatwoods Loop, the Marsh Loop and the Hammock Trail. The hammock trail leads to an awe-inspiring oak/palm hammock. There is also a three-quarter mile trail to the primitive campsite. The one-mile sawgrass marsh trail loop leads to an observation deck. The two-mile hammock loop is on slightly higher ground than the marsh loop. The one-mile pine flatwoods loop runs through slash pine, named for the cuts made across the bark to collect sap for turpentine. On your hike, you'll see examples of how the CREW watershed provides many benefits for humans and wildlife, including water supply, water filtration, flood protection, wildlife habitat and open space for recreation.

The 7,000-acre Corkscrew Marsh is the headwaters for the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed. Since 1990, more than 26,000 acres of the 60,000-acre ecosystem have come into public ownership.

For More Information:

Call the CREW Land and Water Trust about guided hikes and programs for school and community groups at (239) 657-2253 or visit www.crewtrust.org. Programs are available for grades 3-5, 4-6, and high school.

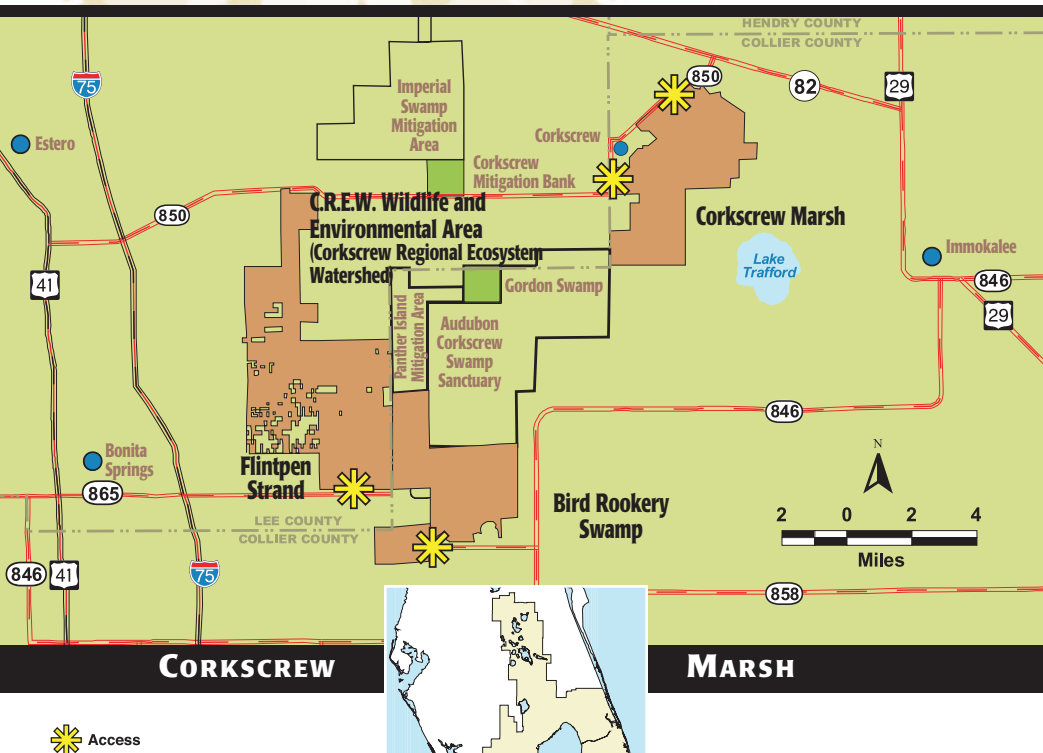
How to Get There:

Corkscrew Marsh is 30 miles from downtown Ft. Myers.

From I-75: Take Exit 123 in Lee County and go east on Corkscrew Road (C.R. 850) approximately 18 miles. The trailhead parking area and entrance is on your right.

Or: Take Exit 138 in Lee County and go east on S.R. 82 about 20 miles. Turn right on C.R. 850 (Corkscrew Road), and the entrance is about 1.5 miles on your left.

The entrance and sign (blue letters "CREW Marsh Trail" on a wooden fence) are a bit recessed in the woods, so please look carefully!



Lee & Collier Counties
25,089 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & FWC

Nicodemus Slough

"Big fish in a little pond" best characterizes the recreational highlight of fishing at Nicodemus Slough. Nestled beside the "big lake," Lake Okeechobee, this wetland includes a three-acre borrow pit that was stocked with bass and brim years ago. A small fishing pier and nearby boat ramp get very little use. Motor boats and canoes can go into the borrow pit, but only airboat travel is practical on the rest of the property.

For More Information:

Water managers fluctuate the water level in the slough to revitalize the wetland. A limited number of airboats are allowed daily. Call Aim Engineering at (239) 332-4569 for a permit.

How to Get There:

Nicodemus Slough is located on the west side of Hwy. 78 between Lakeport and Moore Haven.



Glades County
2,219 Acres
Manager: Aim Engineering, Inc.

Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area

The over 35,000-acre Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area in Hendry County provides important habitat for the endangered Florida panther, bald eagle, roseate spoonbill and the crested caracara. Its diverse natural communities include slough, marsh, cypress, wet prairie, pine flatwoods, oak hammocks, and oak-palm hammocks.

The Division of Forestry manages the property as a state forest, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission manages scheduled hunts. The South Florida Water Management District, Florida Division of Forestry, and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission acquired the lands.

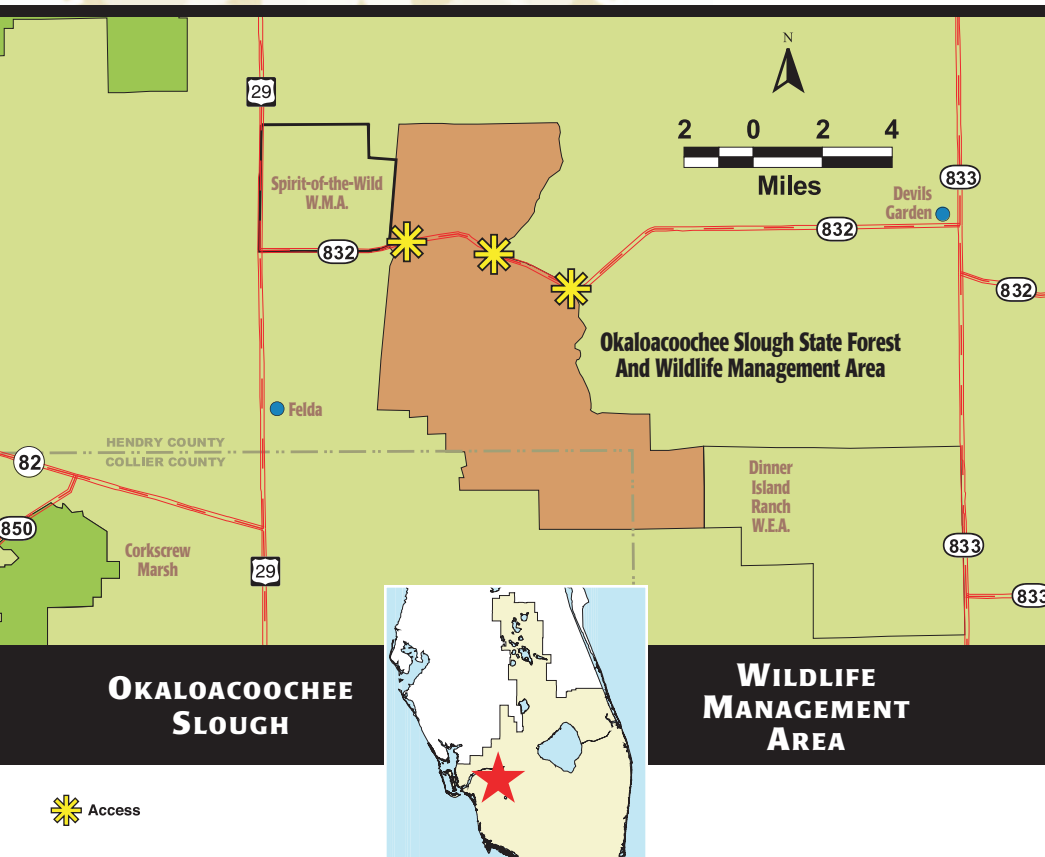
The land is also historically significant. Sears Road, which borders the property on the north, is named after John Sears, of Sears and Roebuck, who owned a large sawmill there. He logged pine for railroad cross ties during the 1920s. By the mid-1930s, the property was cleared of most of the harvestable timber. Hunting leases and cattle operations followed. The property was logged again in the mid-1980s. Today, remnant sawdust piles from portable sawmills used over the years dot the area.

Look for recreational opportunities, such as wildlife viewing, hunting, camping, horseback riding, non-motorized biking and hiking on 39 miles of trails. Fish in the canals and some small borrow pits. Paddling is a possibility, but areas to paddle are limited. There are no designated launch areas.

There are six access points along C.R. 832 approximately one mile between each point. Three have parking (see map). The area does not have potable water. However, it provides two Port-o-Lets two miles south on Wild Cow Grade in the primitive camping area, one of which is handicapped accessible. The area is open sunrise to sunset. Fees are \$1 per day for all activities or \$5 per person daily for camping.

How to Get There:

Okaloacoochee Slough extends on either side of C.R. 832 in Hendry County: Drive on Hwy. 29 from Immakolee south (11 miles) or from LaBelle north (9 miles) and make a turn on to C.R. 832 to the area, which starts three miles from Hwy. 29. From east or west, follow Hwy. 80 to LaBelle and turn south on Hwy. 29, then turn left on to C.R. 832.



Hendry & Collier Counties
34,229 Acres

Manager: FWC & Florida Division of Forestry

Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

A unique wetland, the Six Mile Cypress Slough is nine miles long and one-third of a mile wide. This ribbon-shaped ecosystem is home to a diverse population of plants and animals, including endangered species. The slough is a wildlife corridor, providing a safe travel route for animals.

A 57-square-mile watershed drains into the slough. During the wet season, June through October, a depth of two to three feet of water makes the slough comparable to a wide, shallow stream. It empties southwest into the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve.

The signature facilities of the property are a popular 1.2-mile boardwalk and amphitheatre which are heavily used for environmental education and interpretive programs for thousands of students and visitors each year. There also are seating enclaves, shelters, observation decks and a photo blind, along with picnic areas and educational displays. Enjoy a guided walk or strike out on your own with an "Explorer's Companion" self-guided trail brochure. Several different educational programs, ranging in length from 15 - 90 minutes, at a cost of \$1 to \$3 per student, offer a closer look at the slough.

For More Information:

Visit the web site at www.leeparks.org/sixmile or call (239) 432-2040 for programs and group tours.

How to Get There:

From U.S. 41: Take Colonial Blvd. east to Six Mile Cypress Parkway. Turn right on Six Mile Cypress and travel approximately 1.5 miles to the preserve entrance on the left. The slough is located at 7751 Penzance Crossing, Fort Myers.



Lee County
1,876 Acres

Manager: Lee County Parks & Recreation

Acknowledgments

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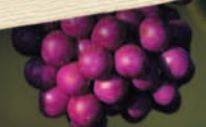
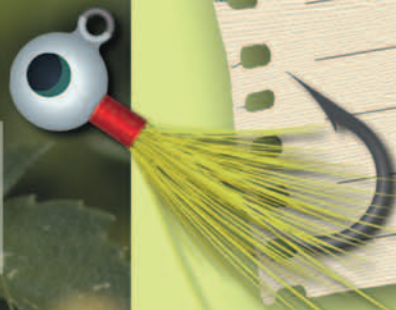
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<http://www.sfwmd.gov/org/clm/lsd/public.html>

Notes





sfwmd.gov

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